BUSINESS / B1

Gains in agriculture, services boost economy by 5.5%

ACROSS / A20

Fisherman missing after abduction in Hagonoy, Bulacan

NEWS / A11

Oil firms cut gasoline prices by P1/liter, diesel by 50¢/liter

SUPPLEMENT ON SECTION I

METROBANK 44

Korean RM awardee made democracy work

By Fe Zamora

SOME MEN DREAM OF DEMOCRACY; PARK Won-soon of South Korea makes it happen.

In giving flesh to the vision, Park has become an activist, a political detainee, a human rights lawyer and an advocate of efficiency in government, fair business, philanthropy and national optimism.

KOREAN/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, September 1, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 265 P18 website: www.inq7.net

NBI seeks filing of raps vs 2 nursing board execs

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) yesterday recommended the filing of charges against former Board of Nursing (BON) members Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madela for their alleged involvement in the leakage in the June nursing board exams.

The six-member BON prepares the questions

NBI SEEKS/ A8

'Suicide bomber' flew on RP plane

He recorded the assembly of his bomb with a camera.

Focus on likely terrorists, not objects, say experts

Airport guards flunked antiterror test 2 times

By Arlyn de la Cruz
Contributor

A MAN WEARING A JACKET AND CARRYING A bag was able to sneak a bomb onto a flight from Manila to Davao City last month at the height of the nationwide security alert after Britain uncovered a plot to blow up transatlantic planes.

LONDON—AIRPORT SECURITY officials should concentrate on people, not objects, but simplistic racial profiling is not the way to thwart potential attacks on airlines, according to experts.

They warn, however, that more effective behavioral profiling will be very labor-intensive, expensive and will not guarantee success.

"It's the only methodology that can stay ahead of terrorism and terrorists," said Philip Baum, editor of the British magazine Aviation Security International.

"Screeners are spending far too long trying to confiscate scissors and shampoos and gels from people who pose absolutely no threat," he said.

A debate over the merits of profiling—where security staff focus their search efforts on people they regard as suspicious on grounds such as ethnicity and religion—has erupted since British

FOCUS/ A6

The man pulled off the same stunt on the return flight to Manila.

Had he detonated the bomb, he would have turned the commercial plane into a fireball and killed himself, the crew and hundreds of other passengers.

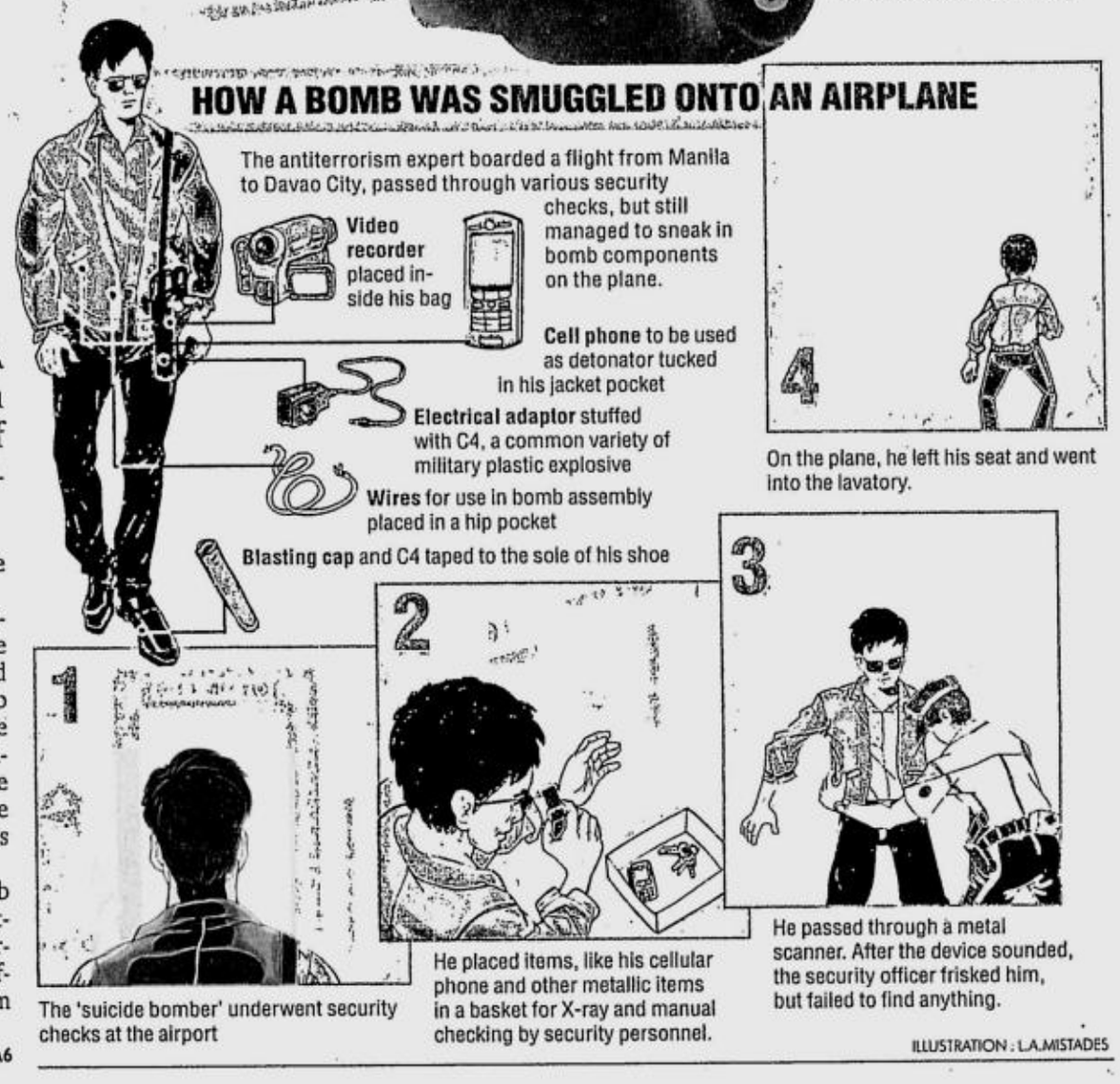
The man turned out to be a civilian antiterrorism expert tapped by a government official to test security measures at Philippine airports after British police foiled a plan to blow up US-bound planes in midair using liquid explosives.

Security was tightened at London's Heathrow airport on Aug. 10, setting off alarms at airports across the globe, including in the Philippines.

But the security and antiterrorism expert, who asked not to be named because of his work, said he managed to bring the bomb and its components onto the plane on Aug. 14 despite the additional security measures at the Manila domestic airport, like the banning of hand-carried fluids and gels.

A similar "insertion of bomb components scenario" is expected to be conducted at other airports in the country as part of efforts to upgrade the antiterrorism capability of airport personnel.

SUICIDE/ A6



THE JAPANESE survey vessel Shinsei Maru lowers its ROV (remote-operated vehicle) 640 meters into the Panay Gulf to pinpoint the location of the sunken oil tanker MT Solar I on Thursday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Tanker found 84 flagpoles deep

By Nestor P. Burgos
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE SUNKEN tanker that has caused the Philippines' worst-ever oil spill was found early yesterday in an upright position and slightly leaning on its right side at a depth of some 640 meters southwest of Guimaras Island, Coast Guard officials said.

The Japanese survey ship MT Shinsei Maru confirmed the location of the MT Solar I, which was earlier detected through sonar sweeps by ships of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria).

The Solar I, carrying about 2 million liters (500,000 gallons) of bunker fuel oil, sank on Aug. 11 in rough seas, then began spilling oil, affecting a 220-km stretch of coastline that includes

TANKER/ A18

6-0 DECISION

Comelec throws out petition for Cha-cha people's initiative

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION ON ELECtions yesterday unanimously trashed the petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution, paving the way for President Macapagal-Arroyo's supporters to go to the Supreme Court in hopes of curing its legal infirmity.

"We are constrained not to entertain or give due course to the instant petition," the Commission en banc, voting 6-0, said in a five-page resolution.

The petition, filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, seeks a change to a unicameral parliamentary system.

"This Commission is not unmindful of the transcendental importance of the right of the people under a system of initiative. However, neither can we turn a blind eye to the pronouncement of the high court [in 1997] that in the absence of a valid enabling law, this right of the people remains nothing but an 'empty right'," the Comelec said.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said later that the commission would not entertain any motions for reconsideration so the petitioners could appeal directly to the Supreme Court.

The commission did not rule on whether the petition was correct in substance and form, which was questioned by nine groups and individuals.

The Comelec also refrained from ruling on the authenticity of

COMELEC/ A10

5 bridges to connect Visayas

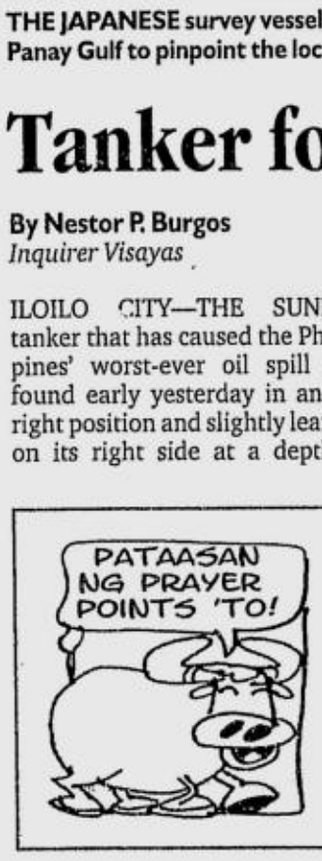
By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—GOVERNORS in the Visayas are urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare as a priority project the proposal to build bridges linking the islands of Bohol, Mactan, Cebu, Leyte, Negros, Guimaras and Panay.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, on Wednesday said that Pacific Consultants International of Japan was conducting a pre-feasibility study on the Trans-Visayas Friendship project.

5 BRIDGES/ A10

BRIDGING BIG GAPS



Christian video game prays for mass appeal

SAN FRANCISCO—GOD'S ARMY will begin battling the Antichrist and his minions in a video game version of post-apocalyptic New York City to be released today.

A beta version of the Christian-based computer strategy game "Left Behind: Eternal Forces" will be released aiming at the kind of mass market success garnered by films such as "The Chronicles of Narnia" and "The Passion of the Christ."

The game is based on the 15 "Left Behind" books by evangelical

CHRISTIAN/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

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Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/31/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Melo commission 'toothless,' say critics

By Blanche S. Rivera and Alcuin Papa

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES SAY THE MELO COMMISSION tasked to investigate the spate of extra-judicial killings was a "toothless tiger" because it has no power to rein in the military or to ensure that witnesses are protected.

Some 73 rights groups which gathered at the UP College of Law to decide on what action to take against the killing of activists and journalists agreed that the Malacañang-created commission lacked the credibility and the independence needed to address the problem.

"It is a toothless tiger without the power to subpoena, without the power to protect," said former vice president Teofisto Guingona Jr.

The Citizens Council for Human Rights said the commission, headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, would not achieve anything unless it is given the authority to summon the military and police whom militants accuse of involvement in the killings.

Just for show?

"Unless these powers are given and sincerity is shown, then it's hard to change the impression that this commission is just for show... It will only be a superficial thing," Guingona said.

Yesterday, the commission met with Director General Avelino Razon, the police deputy chief for administration who heads Task Force Usig, which is investigating the killings.

Razon said Task Force Usig would continue with its own investigation and would cooperate with the Melo Commission.

"We will continue following up our investigation of the killings on the Philippine National Police side while the Melo Commission will look at the broader aspect. Everything they will need, we will provide them," Razon said.

He said the task force had already turned over documents, data and records to the commission.

Melo said the commission would probe into the reasons why the killings persist.

"TF Usig is essentially police work. They are there to find out who are the particular culprits or felons responsible for the killings. We are not so much concerned about that. We are more concerned about why is this happening. What is the cause of all these things and how do we arrest this," he said.

He said the commission would start with cases where there were already "known" suspects and then find out why this was happening.

Melo told reporters the commission can still summon controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan even after he retires on Sept. 11, the same day that the commission formally starts its probe.

"We will call him probably before he retires. We can still call him [even after he retires]," Melo said.

On the issue of the alleged participation of the communist New People's Army in the killings, Razon said they would also look into that angle.

CCHR spokesperson Max de Mesa said the government cannot expect witnesses or survivors of killings, abduction and torture to speak out and cooperate with the commission because they fear retaliation from the police and military.

Atmosphere of fear

"It's not just the Melo Commission, it's the environment in which it operates. The people they want to call as witnesses are living in an atmosphere of fear," De Mesa said.

"To get information from people and assure them that they will survive, you need the military to back off," he said.

The Philippine Human Rights Information Center (Philrights) cited the case of some witnesses in Davao who were either threatened or killed when it was learned that they would give information to an investigative body.

Citing the alleged failure of the Department of Justice's Witness Protection program, Philrights executive director Nymia Simbulan said people would not risk their lives to testify.

According to Philrights data, from January to July this year, there have been 75 victims of summary executions. Many of these occurred in Central Luzon, which is under the military command of Palparan.

PIATCO lawyers Eduardo de los Angeles (left) and Manuel Cosico display the order of the international arbitration court in front of Naia Termina 3. JESS YUSON

Piatco won't take over Naia3 just yet

By Nikko Dizon

THE FILIPINO-GERMAN CONSORTIUM that built the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3 has decided to postpone its takeover of the disputed facility.

Piatco's lawyers went to the terminal early yesterday but only to show government that their client was complying with the law and asserting its right to the facility, said lawyer Moises Tolentino.

Piatco's right to the terminal was based on the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Singapore-based International Chamber of Commerce Arbitration Tribunal, Tolentino said.

Eduardo de los Angeles, the Piatco lead counsel, told reporters that the lawyers "will be back sometime next week" to claim Naia 3 if the government fails to make the P3 billion payment and secure a valid court-issued writ of possession.

After announcing it would take over the terminal at 8 a.m. yesterday, Piatco decided late Wednesday to defer the plan after airport chief Alfonso Cusi issued an appeal. The consortium also received a copy of the Solicitor General's motion asking the Court of Appeals to lift its order stopping the payment of P3 billion to Piatco.

More time

"At the end of the day, Piatco has decided that in the spirit of goodwill and with due regard to the Miaa general manager's request, we are giving the government a little more time to address the issues," Tolentino said.

Cusi, the head of the Manila International Airport Authority, had written to Piatco president Cheng Yong on Aug. 30, asking Piatco to "exercise prudence."

Piatco was acting on the strength of an Aug. 23 ICC ruling that the government return the airport facility to the consortium for failing to pay just compensation to the consortium. Piatco had brought the case for arbitration to the ICC.

The government moved to expropriate Naia 3 after the Supreme Court upheld its decision to revoke Piatco's Naia 3 contract in 2002. In 2004, the high court also affirmed the Pasay court's order that the government pay Piatco P3 billion in initial compensation.

The payment was held up by various court motions to intervene in the expropriation case, culminating in the Court of Appeals injunction against payment last Aug. 24.

De los Angeles, Tolentino and the Piatco legal team arrived at the Naia 3 at 8:15 a.m. yesterday. They were met by retired general Angel Atutubo, the Miaa security chief. A number of airport policemen were also seen at the site.

Aututubo and De los Angeles exchanged copies of the Cusi letter to Piatco and Piatco's Aug. 25 letter to the Solicitor General, informing the government of its planned takeover.

Physical evidence

Attached to the Cusi letter was a copy of the LandBank check for P3.02 billion that the government had intended to pay last Aug. 24 but was stopped by the Court of Appeals injunction based on a petition of Rep. Salacnib Baterina.

De los Angeles said it was imperative for Piatco to take over Naia 3 as the airport terminal was the only "physical evidence" of the consortium's claim for just compensation.

"We must preserve the evidence for our claim, to prove the real value [of Naia 3]. Some have been accusing us of presenting fake and doctored documents. Our best proof is the airport itself," De los Angeles said.

Piatco is demanding payment of $525 million (P27.3 billion) as just compensation.

Court suit to delay payment for Naia 3

THE GOVERNment's quest to have the Court of Appeals lift its injunction against the payment of more than P3 billion to the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. could be delayed further by a move from Rep. Salacnib Baterina asking the appellate court to issue a second restraining order.

Baterina has asked the CA to set aside a Pasay regional trial court ruling dated Aug. 8, 2006 denying his standing as an intervenor in the government's expropriation case on the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3.

The Ilocos congressman is one of several private petitioners who filed motions to intervene in the expropriations proceedings. He opposes the payment of any compensation to Piatco because it allegedly obtained its contract to build Naia 3 through fraud and corruption.

Payment stopped

On Aug. 24, the CA, acting on Baterina's petition, ordered the government to refrain from implementing the Pasay court's order to pay Piatco an initial P3 billion as just compensation.

In his second motion, Baterina said that Mupas in an omnibus order dated Dec. 13, 2005 had already admitted him as an intervenor and vested on him the right to intervene in the expropriation case.

He said that throughout the court proceedings following the Dec. 13 order, Mupas had recognized his standing as an intervenor in the expropriation case and had never indicated that his intervention was still at issue.

But with Mupas' Aug. 8 order, he said the judge "stripped and withdrew petitioner's vested right, without warning that his standing was at issue and without according him due process of law." *Armand N. Nocum*

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DINING TABLE WITH 4 CHAIRS Before: 28,000 Now: 22,400

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MARBLE TOP SIDE TABLE Before: 12,900 Now: 6,450

MARBLE DINING TABLE WITH 6 CHAIRS Before: 39,600 Now: 19,800

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GMA ecstatic over improving economy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS ecstatic over the high economic growth, the strong peso and the softening of fuel prices that have come on the heels of a major political victory, the defeat of the second impeachment complaint against her for the second time in 12 months.

President Arroyo proudly announced in a nationally televised forum in Malacañang that the economy as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 5.6 percent in the first half this year and by 6.5 percent based on gross national product (GNP) which includes overseas Filipino workers remittances.

"(The economic data) ensures that our target of GDP growth of 5.5 percent to 6.1 percent this year is well within our reach," said President Arroyo. *(Related story on Page B1)*

The President attributed the strong economy on the better-than-expected growth in agriculture (6.7 percent), robust export growth (up 22.3 percent) and a vibrant services sector (5.7 percent).

"Our economic growth has become even more significant in the face of the many challenges we face like the rise in the price of world crude oil prices and higher interest rates, tightening competition in the region and the lingering threat of terrorism," the President said.

More important than hitting her GDP and GDP targets, the President said the country should "sustain the country's economic gains in more real terms like managing inflation interest rates and the stability of the currency against the onslaught of external factors like the oil crisis."

The President was equally elated over the sustained improvement of the peso which she has tracked regularly in a monitor in her office.

"We welcome the peso's rise closer to the 50 to one dollar exchange rate," the President said.

She also underscored the recent cutback in fuel prices—one peso per liter for premium fuel and 50 centavos per liter for diesel—that has provided welcome relief to the masses.

With a slew of economic good news and her political troubles subsiding, the President called on the public to "brush aside doom sayers and stand resilient amid adversity and controversy," said the President.

Politician behind shabu lab tagged soon

By Alcuin Papa

A LOCAL POLITICIAN said to be behind the existence of the shabu laboratory in Dingalan, Aurora, will soon be identified to the public by police authorities, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said yesterday.

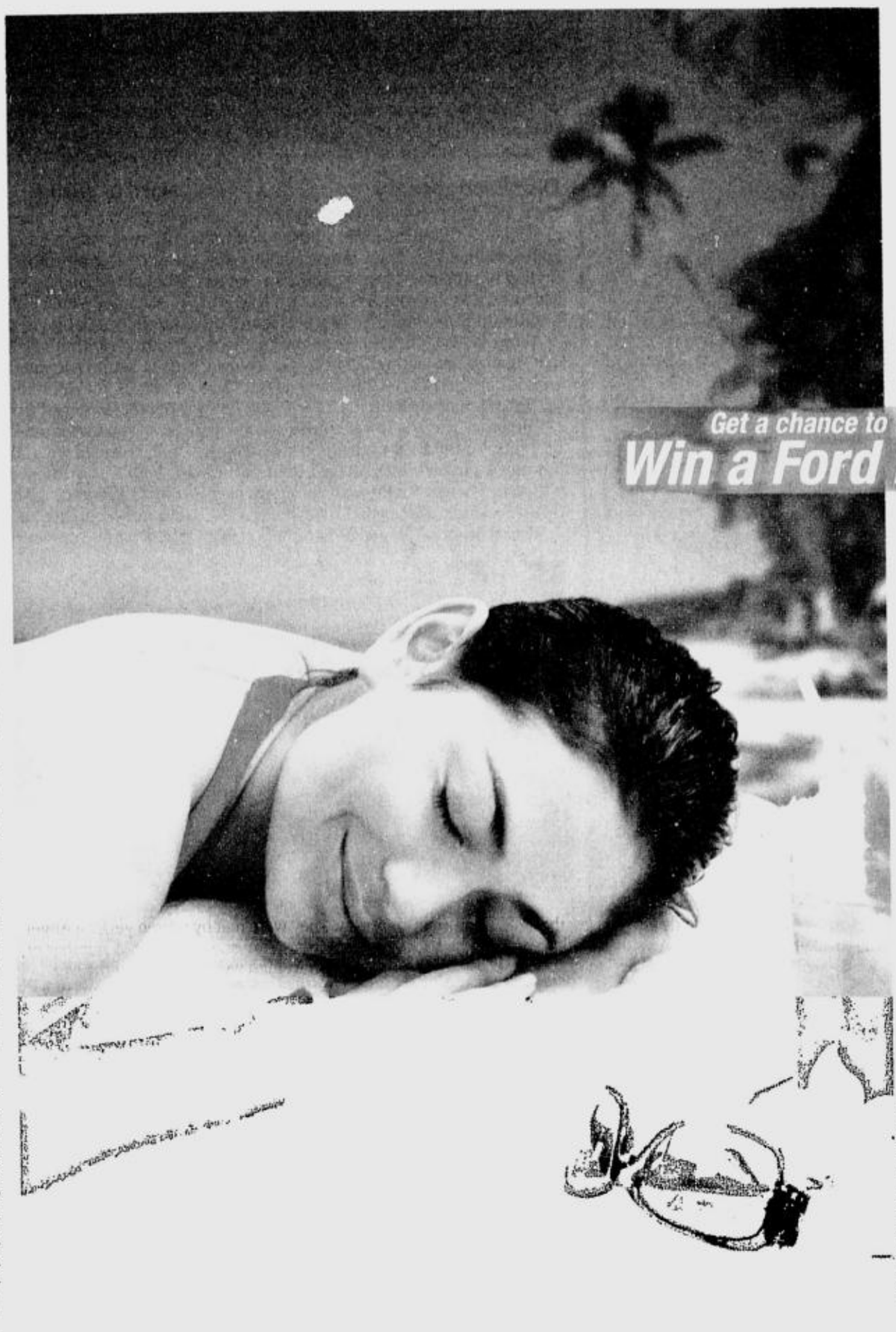
According to Supt. Francisco Gabriel, PDEA Public Information Officer, told the INQUIRER that operatives of the PDEA and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) are conducting follow up operations on the case as well as gathering evidence to pin down the politician, said to be the financier of the shabu laboratory.

"The case is under follow up by our operatives and that of the NBI. We will soon identify him (local politician)," Gabriel said.

Last Aug. 29, operatives of the NBI and PDEA raided a shabu laboratory in Barangay Butas na Bato, Dingalan, Aurora, based on a search warrant issued by a Manila Regional Trial Court.

According to a report from the PDEA, the facility has been under surveillance for almost half a year.

Arrested were four Chinese nationals identified as Xian Tian, Zhi Qu, Ong Tua and Zhin Na, all from the People's Republic of China.



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She gave birth just 9 months ago... Look at Dawn Now!

After the joys of childbirth, the battle to bring back that whistle-bait figure after 9 months of fat build-up and unsightly postnatal changes is very challenging. Actress Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo eagerly shares how she was able to transform her body from miserable to bare-able!

Although she swears that every pound she gained was worth it for her son Jacobo, Dawn animatedly recalls the depression and insecurity she felt upon seeing her inflated body right after childbirth. She says, "Coming from a pregnancy, it was very frustrating since I couldn't do much about my excess weight. Given my post-caesarian condition, I was temporarily barred from doing any taxing activity that, for a moment, I already contemplated on getting liposuction as a desperate measure."

After considering all the horrors of liposuction, Dawn dropped the idea of any surgical procedure. She candidly utters, "I don't want to look like a *longganisa* after going under the knife!" Giving justice to her comment she explains, "I don't want the uneven curves that liposuction often produces. I know people who have regretted their decision after the ripple-like curves start to form and become visible on their bodies. It's really ugly. Add to it the fact that it's not just expensive, but most importantly, it can be quite dangerous."

It was at this point that she chanced upon Marie France's slimming system. "Upon finding out that all their treatments are non-invasive, I immediately gave it a try. The next thing I know, I was dramatically losing all the unwanted pounds and inches of flab," Dawn narrates. "And then finally, after shedding all that fat, I found out about Marie France's newest treatment, Ultrashape. It was the perfect finishing touch for people who have lost weight but still have some lumps and bumps that just won't seem to go away. It really re-sculpts your body and shows off your curves. I was lucky that I was one of the first to try this amazing technology. After my first treatment, I immediately said to myself 'wow, it's perfect!' Ultrashape definitely has all the benefits of lipo minus the surgery and all the risks! There's no downtime whatsoever."

According to Dawn, the treatment takes an hour and a half and is done once a month. Four to five treatments are normally recommended. Flaunting her flat stomach, she proudly says, "The effect is already visible as early as the first treatment, would you believe! I was pleasantly surprised to see my tummy flatten. It boosted my confidence that I started treatment on my thighs soon after. So you see, liposuction is unnecessary."

Asked if she experienced any discomfort during the treatment, Dawn reveals, "No, not at all. The treatment was very relaxing. It was painless. The doctor explained that Ultrashape destroys the fat cells in the targeted areas like my stomach and thighs. From there, the fat is metabolized and burned naturally by my body as energy. Before I knew it, my body's once again capable of wearing even the skimpiest of outfits like a bikini. I'm confident because I have nothing more to hide. I've got the body of a sexy 20something woman even if I'm already 37 and have just given birth!"

Not the least bothered as to the criticisms people might cook up about her latest and sexiest print ad to date, Dawn coolly shrugs her shoulders and says, "We're getting out of the stereotype. Even if you're a mommy, it shouldn't strip you off the pleasure to look and feel good about yourself." She adds, "Like in my case, having a sexier and fitter body now makes me more excited to do a lot of productive things because the confidence is there. If my family and I were to go to the beach, I can go out and frolic in my two-piece swimsuit without *tapis*. When I'm free from insecurities, I make my husband more proud of me because we are both able to enjoy our quality moments with enthusiasm." Dawn continues, "It doesn't matter if you're in your thirties or forties because as women, we owe it to ourselves to always look good. Every woman can achieve the sexy body she wants if she only sets her mind to it. There's so many choices out there and Marie France offers a lot. It caters to women with safe and effective solutions for whatever problem their body has."

Prior to ending the conversation, Dawn shifts to a joking mood as she highlights, "Just beware of the consequences of Ultrashape. You'll definitely start looking more delicious to your husband and you just might find yourself pregnant again!"

Call Marie France at **894-BODY (2639)** for a free consultation. ADVT

Still behind bars, Beltran hales lower court to SC

By Tarra V. Quismundo

BENT ON CONTINUING TO PROTEST HIS detention, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran is taking his case to the Supreme Court.

Beltran's lawyer, Romeo Capulong, said yesterday he will file a petition for certiorari and prohibition in the Supreme Court seeking to overturn a lower court's decision shunning his client's appeal and upholding his indictment.

"We will go up to the Supreme Court to question the order of Judge [Elmo] Alameda finding probable cause against him [Beltran] and denying our motion to dismiss the case. We will reiterate our position against the validity of his arrest and the inquest proceedings in the Department of Justice," Capulong told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The petition will also seek a deferment of the lower court proceedings, in anticipation of Capulong's arraignment, Capulong said. Beltran will likewise ask the high court to release him on bail, he added.

Dismissed appeal

On Wednesday, Alameda, of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150, dismissed Beltran's appeal of an earlier court order upholding the finding of probable cause against him and coaccused 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, a leader of the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny in Makati City.

Alameda also affirmed the commitment order against the ailing 73-year-old Beltran, who is confined at the Philippine Heart Center under police custody.

The order was the lower court's second affirmation of the DOJ's rebellion case against the two accused, which alleged their participation in a Leftist-Rightist conspiracy to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Makati Branch 146 Judge Encarnacion Jaja Moya, who had earlier handled the case, had also upheld the indictment of Beltran and San Juan on May 31. Alameda's 12-page order was a response to Beltran's appeal of that court order.

"In our petition, we will cite that he was illegally arrested, that the DOJ's inquest proceedings against him were invalid, and that there was no sufficient allegation in the information [filed by the DOJ] to establish rebellion," Capulong said.

The lawyer had raised the same points with Alameda, but the judge decided against them and ruled that the arrest of Beltran and San Juan and the inquest proceedings were valid.

Capulong disagreed and contended that Beltran's arrest was illegal, as he was taken into custody on an old warrant for inciting to sedition, not rebellion. Beltran was arrested in Bulacan on Feb. 25, the day after a foiled coup attempt against the administration.

The rebellion case was subsequently filed, where state prosecutors alleged that Beltran had fronted for communist rebels in talks with rebel soldiers to stage a coup d'etat.

Hard to justify

"It would be hard to justify that arrest. He was arrested on different charges, and the filing of the rebellion case was just a second thought," Capulong said.

Charged separately with rebellion in the same incident were 46 other individuals, including Beltran's fellow sectoral representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño, Joel Virador, Rafael Mariano and Liza Maza, former senator Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Last week, Alameda suspended the lower court's proceedings on the separate rebellion case in deference to the status quo order issued by the Supreme Court in June.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR Peter Beckingham watches as his wife Jill learns how to play the *kudyapi*, a traditional Muslim musical instrument, during a visit to a PEACE-Mindanao project.

Strife-torn Muslim areas alive again with UK help

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES ARE EMERGING within former refugee camps. Muslim scholars (ulama) are preaching reconciliation and exhorting their fellow Muslims to lay down their arms. Women are taking the lead in resolving clan wars or "rido." And young Muslim professionals are volunteering to work in disadvantaged communities.

This is not wishful thinking, says the British Embassy in Manila. These events are now a daily occurrence in many parts of Mindanao, often at the center of rural communities gripped by violent conflict barely five years ago.

In a press statement, the Embassy said its Engaging the Islamic World (EIW) Program is among the most innovative programs supporting significant peace building initiatives in such hotspots as Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Central Mindanao.

Among the first batch of program partners is Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Philippines, a UK-based international volunteer agency, the statement said. VSO sends international volunteers to provide technical support and capacity building assistance to civil society organizations in war torn communities in Mindanao.

A recent visit by Peter Beckingham, British ambassador to the Philippines, to former strife-torn communities in Madalum, Lanao del Sur, and Linamon, Lanao del Norte is indicative of the new confidence, trust, and firm partnership, the embassy said.

Erap backers protest X-rating

By DJ Yap

SUPPORTERS OF DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada picketed the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board yesterday to protest its "X" rating for Estrada's biopic "Ang Mabuhay Para sa Masa (To Live for the Masses)."

Carrying placards and streamers, some 100 members of groups identified with Estrada trooped to the MTRCB offices at President Tower on Timog Avenue, Quezon City, to condemn what they called an attack on freedom of expression.

"The issues raised in the documentary are nothing new: It talks about Erap's life as a movie actor, mayor, senator, vice president, and president," said Ronald Lumbao, national chair of People's Movement Against Poverty.

"These matters are already known to the people," he added.

The X-rating effectively bans the documentary from public exhibition since there are no theaters authorized to show X-rated movies.

Lumbao said the MTRCB and President Macapagal-Arroyo had "nothing to fear" from the documentary, since it only presented true events.

"(Ms Arroyo) should not be afraid of her own shadow. She only needs to answer the questions raised in the documentary. In fact, she should be the one to take the initiative to tell the truth," he said.

He also said the MTRCB's move disapproving the airing of the biopic was reminiscent of the attempt of former president Diosdado Macapagal, Ms Arroyo's father, to ban Ferdinand Marcos' biopic "Iginuhit ng Tadhana" during the 1965 election campaign.

"In the end, it was that movie that became Marcos' vehicle which won for him the presidency," Lumbao said.

During the rally, the protesters distributed flyers showing a caricature of Estrada with his mouth covered by a handkerchief labeled "MTRCB." They also handed out a few CDs of the documentary to onlookers and media.

According to their statement, the biopic was a factual retelling of the events leading to Estrada's ouster in 2001.

Corrections

IN THE AUG. 31 ISSUE, A FRONT-PAGE window and the banner story of the Business section on Page B1 — "Peso hits 6-month high of 50.945 to $1" — misstated that the local currency on Wednesday closed at its highest level against the US dollar since March. The exchange rate of P50.945 to the dollar was actually the highest finish of the local currency in four years, surpassing the April 10, 2002, closing rate of P50.95 to the dollar.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, A STORY ON Page A5 — "Palparan replacement to try new tack vs Reds" — misstated the rank of the Army general who will replace Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as commander of the 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon. Palparan's successor is Maj. Gen. — not Brig. Gen. — Juanito Gomez.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93 94, Attn: Readers Advocate Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342

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Mike A files libel suit vs solon

FIRST GENTLEMAN Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo yesterday made good his threat to sue Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano for libel for accusing his family of maintaining a multimillion-dollar bank account in Germany.

Arroyo filed 13 counts of libel against Cayetano and demanded P32 million in damages and lawyer's fees, in a complaint filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

Lawyer Ruy Alberto Rondain said the suit was intended to "vindicate the honor" of the First Family, whom Cayetano accused of hiding millions of dollars in an account in HypoVereinsbank in Munich.

Rondain said a public apology would not be enough to make Arroyo drop the charges. "He [Cayetano] hasn't retracted his statement and hasn't admitted he has done anything wrong," Rondain said, adding that Cayetano should have substantiated his charges.

Accompanied by his brother, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, and his lawyers, the First Gentleman filed his complaint just after 2 p.m. yesterday. He was also accompanied by Quezon City Police District director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr. and other ranking police officials. *DJ Yap*

Soldiers dig up mass grave in Leyte

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SOLDIERS HAVE UNEARTHED A MASS grave in Inopacan, Leyte, believed to contain the remains of New People's Army guerrillas who were killed by their comrades in past purges.

Troops belonging to the 43rd Infantry Battalion began digging at the site called the "Garden" in Sitio Sapang Dako, Barangay Kaulisihan, on Aug. 26 based on information provided by former rebels and local residents.

About 60 skeletons have been exhumed since residents and local police joined the soldiers in the digging, according to Armed Forces of the Philippines public information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. flew to Leyte yesterday to inspect the site.

Bacarro said the remains of at least 100 people could be in the mass grave.

Mass purge

He said the slain guerrillas could have been killed during the "Anti-VD Campaign" in Leyte from the mid-'80s to the early '90s when the NPA summarily executed comrades suspected of being government deep penetration agents (DPA).

A mass "purging" took place in all NPA fronts all over the country during the '80s during which thousands of rebels were tortured and killed by their colleagues on mere suspicion of being government spies.

Willing to testify

"The anti-infiltration campaign (in Leyte) resulted in the maltreatment, torture and summary execution of more than a hundred innocent members of the NPA and the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines) and civilians suspected of being government informers," said Maj. Felix Mangyao, spokesperson of the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan, Samar.

Mangyao said former NPA rebels, relatives of the "purging" victims and residents of nearby barangays had been working with the soldiers to carefully excavate the remains.

He said former rebels were willing to testify in court that the purge was ordered by CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison, National Democratic Front (NDF) chief political consultant Luis Jalandoni and Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo when the three were members of the CPP Central Committee.

Bacarro said one of those who came forward to implicate Sison, Jalandoni and Ocampo was a certain Zacarias Piedad, a former front commander who claimed to have seen a purge order signed by the three.

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CHNT has added another jewel in its widening network of affiliated agents around the world. CHNT Group would like to announce its new authorized agent for the Philippines, one of the top electrical equipment suppliers in the country, KC Industrial Corporation.

CHNT, since its foundation in 1984, has risen to be the largest manufacturer of low-voltage electrical products in China. Headquartered in Zhejiang Province, on Southeast of China, CHNT has developed from a home workshop to one of the top 10 largest private companies in China. CHNT has established an impressive sales network with offices in USA, Middle East, Germany, Russia, Brazil, Hong Kong and Great Britain in addition to more than 30 authorized agents all over the world. Due to CHNT 's dedication in providing high quality reliable electrical equipment, CHNT has been awarded National Outstanding Enterprise in Quality Management, CHNT is certified under ISO9001, ISO14001 and OHSAS18001 and its products have passed numerous international testing certifications.

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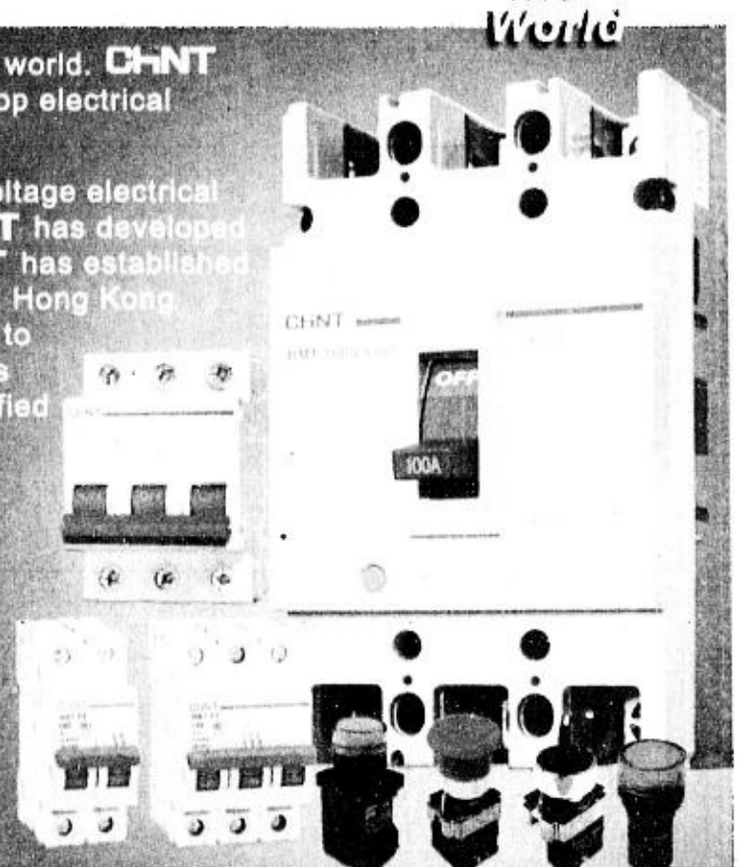

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'Suicide bomber' flew on RP plane

From page A1

At the departure gate, the antiterrorism expert said he passed through the walk-in detector, frisking and X-ray areas.

He underwent the same security checks at the boarding area.

To prove that he was able to get the explosive and its components past security personnel, he filmed the bomb he had assembled on the plane and showed the footage recently to select members of the media.

How did he get the bomb and its components past the tight security?

C4 plastic bomb

The security expert said he attached a piece of C4, a plastic explosive, to the sole of his leather shoe, and placed another piece inside an electric adaptor.

The wires he placed in a "secret" pocket near his belt.

While at the scanning and X-ray area prior to boarding, he casually placed a cellular phone in the basket that security personnel checked manually. The cell phone could serve as a detonator.

Ten minutes after takeoff from the Manila domestic airport, the antiterrorism expert said he got up from his seat and went to the plane's lavatory. Inside, he mixed all the materials together. He then pulled out a digital camera from his jacket and took a video of his lethal concoction.

"The only missing act was the push on the button to blow up the aircraft," he said in an interview.

"In a real terrorist threat, the terrorist, usually a suicide bomber, will not hesitate and push the button to accomplish his or her mission."

Astonished

The antiterrorism expert said airport security personnel came to know about what he had done only after he told them about it when he got off the return flight from Davao.

Security personnel, around 50 of them, participated in the antiterrorism exercise. They were astonished to realize that they had not been that thorough in checking passengers.

None of the airport personnel who participated in the training knew the antiterrorism expert. He was introduced to the security personnel by the "authorized government agency" that had hired him only after he alighted from the plane.

Think like a terrorist

In an interview, the antiterrorism expert said: "To catch a terrorist, security personnel must act and think like a terrorist."

After the antiterrorist exercise, he submitted his recommendations, which he hoped would be forwarded to the Air Transportation Office (ATO) by the "authorized government agency" that commissioned his services.

Among his recommendations were the following:

- All items like cigarette and eyeglass cases, key chains, watches and all other objects made of metallic materials must pass through the X-ray machine.
- Shoes and belts must be removed from the body and must be submitted for X-ray examination.
- Airline crew must undergo rigid training on the threat of bomb insertion.
- Politicians, military and police officers, and all other government officials must not be exempted from frisking and standard security checks to set an example so that other passengers will cooperate in the stringent security checks.
- Training of airport personnel must be upgraded but must start with a review of the basics.

The security lapse at the Manila domestic airport and at the Davao International Airport may be due to the fact that security personnel did not really know what to look for, according to the antiterrorism expert.

The expert said security personnel may have been looking for what is believed to be sophisticated bomb components, like liquid bombs.

Diversion

In his sixth recommendation, the expert said authorities must consider the threat posed by liquid bombs, but they must also consider that it could be a way to divert attention from the actual plot of terrorists.

"For all we know, this is what the terrorists want us to think. That they have the capability to build liquid bombs, but the truth is the option still available to them remains the conventional components for making bombs," he said.

He recommended that politicians and other officials not be exempted from security checks because security personnel may get the wrong idea of how a terrorist looks like and behaves.

"Right now, there is no fixed way in identifying terrorists. The key is to know how they think, what they are trained for and what makes them do this, usually based on religious convictions," he said.

This may give a better picture of a terrorist determined to carry out a bombing mission, the expert said.

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Hon. Adelio S. Cruz – Deputy Chief of Protocol, DFA. He has also served as director of both the Ceremonials and Immunities and Privileges divisions of the DFA. He has assisted in the state visits of several foreign dignitaries and has conducted numerous lectures and workshops on Philippines protocol practices, social graces, personality development, and management leadership for institutions in the public and private sector.

Atty. Noel R. Fernandez III – Board Secretary and special assistant to the DFA undersecretary for administration. He is a regular lecturer on international law at the Foreign Service Institute and recently completed specialized studies in international humanitarian law in Italy. He topped the 1994 Philippine bar exams and placed second in the Foreign Service Officer's exams.

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BUSINESSWORLD Lawsuit Alternatives BOOKS

Focus on likely terrorists, not objects, say experts

From page A1

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police announced on Aug. 10 that they had foiled a plan to blow up transatlantic planes using liquid explosives.

Immediately, airports across Europe and the United States tightened security: Passengers were banned from taking liquids or hand luggage on board and travellers were rigorously checked. Some of those measures, however, were later relaxed.

Baum said such actions, which caused airport chaos, flight delays and cancellations, were unnecessary and ineffective.

"The existing technologies have been proven to have limited effectiveness," he told Reuters. "They haven't as yet identified anybody who has been carrying an improvised explosive device on their person or in their baggage, whereas profiling has been proven to be effective."

The profiling debate has been fueled by the fact that the suspects detained and charged in the airlines bomb plot were all British Muslims, mainly of Pakistani descent.

Some of Britain's 1.7 million Muslims have warned profiling will widen the gulf between authorities and their communities.

Many Muslims accuse police of unfairly targeting their community in a crackdown on terrorism after last year's suicide bomb attacks on London's transport system by young British Islamist militants.

Looking the part?

Some experts, including the former head of London's police force, say authorities should concentrate on profiling potential suspects, with a particular eye on young Muslim men.

"I'm a white, 62-year-old, 6 ft 4 in suit-wearing ex-cop—do I really fit the profile of a suicide bomber?" former Metropolitan Police Commissioner John Stevens said.

"Does the young mom with three tots? The gay couple, the rugby team, the middle-aged businessman?"

A poll published in August after the airlines plot was foiled found 55 percent of Britons backed passenger profiling with just 29 percent opposed to the system.

Baum said he advocated a system of "positive profiling" based on behavior, not ethnicity.

"That is not racial profiling, I totally disagree with racial profiling," he said. "You're not exempting anybody from screening by technology but you are determining which technology to apply depending on the perceived risk a passenger poses.

"We are not saying all young Asian males are going to be set aside for some separate screening by definition," Baum added.

But that is exactly what many Muslims fear.

One of the country's most senior Muslim police officers, London Chief Superintendent Ali Dizaei, warned profiling could create a new offense of "travelling whilst Asian."

Profiling would also be costly because it would need trained surveillance officers who could spot warning signs in passengers' behavior and would also require efficient cross-referencing of information about people's itineraries.

'Blunt instrument'

Another problem lies in the fact that profiling is a science in its infancy and a rather "blunt instrument," Alex Standish, editor of Strategic Intelligence Review, said.

Profiling might not have caught British-born "shoe bomber" Richard Reid, who tried to blow up an airliner in 2001 using explosives hidden in his shoes.

"Reid wouldn't necessarily have flagged anything up on anyone's radar," he said. "Terrorist masterminds" might also look for people who did not fit the expected profile, he added.

Standish said not enough research had been done to compare the behavior of people carrying out criminal acts and those who were about to commit a suicide attack.

"I think even the Israeli intelligence services would agree they cannot possibly stop every determined would-be suicide bomber," he said.

"You simply have to develop the kind of intelligence network to keep individuals under suspicion and their associates under constant surveillance but it's enormously expensive, labor-intensive and you can't afford to take your eye off the ball."

One way of improving the profiling procedure would be to make checks closer to the departure gate.

"You will have different expectations of behavior on every single flight," Baum said. "The closer somebody gets to boarding the flight the more chance you are going to get of detecting behavioral signs as well. *Reuters*

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 6
Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. Nos. (033) 329-2165/320-6246
Fax No. (033) 3204764

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 6**, through its Corporate Budget for 2007 intends to apply the sum of ***Eleven Million Six Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P11,653,200.00)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of Security Services for CY 2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The **National Food Authority, Region 6** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the provision of security services for its Regional/Provincial offices, owned and leased warehouses, other installations and facilities. Delivery of services is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2007.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the **National Food Authority, Regional Office 6** and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below starting ***September 1 to 15, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **National Food Authority** will hold a ***Pre-Bid Conference*** open to all interested parties on ***September 19, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.*** at the Iloilo Regional Office Conference Room, 2/F, National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City.

Bid and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on ***October 2, 2006 not later than 9:30 a.m.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form or combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC, to be bid
Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check Payable to NFA issued by any reputable bank or	One Percent (1%)
Surety bond issued by GSIS marked "callable on demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***October 2, 2006 @ 9:30 a.m.*** at Iloilo Regional Office 6 Conference Room, 2/F, National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The **National Food Authority** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected or Bidders.

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(PDI - Sept. 1 & 8, 2006)

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
REPAIR OF CONTAINER YARD / OPEN STORAGE (RECLAIMED AREA) PORT OF TAGBILARAN, TAGBILARAN CITY

Scope of Works:
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6. *Portland Cement Concrete Pavement*

The *Philippine Ports Authority* through the Corporate Budget of the Authority for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of ***P 12,741,379.55*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCs) to payment under the contract for ***Repair of Container Yard / Open Storage (Reclaimed Area), Port of Tagbilaran.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *Philippine Ports Authority* now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the above scope of works. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs starting **September 7, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the Bids and Awards Committee Admin Building, PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran, Port Area, Tagbilaran City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on ***September 18, 2006 at BAC Secretariat, Admin. Building, PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran, Port Area, Tagbilaran City.*** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran, Port Area, Tagbilaran City on or before ***5:00 P.M. of September 18, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00 *exclusive of VAT*)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative from ***September 27-September 29, 2006 @ 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.***

The Bids and Awards Committee for Engineering Projects of PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 2, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.** at the following address, PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran Conference Room, Admin Building, Port Area, Tagbilaran City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before ***1:00 p.m. of October 10, 2006*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following forms and amount:

a.)	Cash, certified check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	– 1% of ABC
b.)	Bank guarantee	– 1.5% of ABC
c.)	Surety Bond	– 2.5% of ABC
d.)	Foreign Government Guarantee	– 100% of ABC

or equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on ***October 10, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran Conference Room, Port Area, Tagbilaran City.

- Equipment Requirements (owned or leased)
  2 units Dumptrucks (owned/leased)
  1 unit Backhoe (0.40 cu.m.) w/ Concrete Breaker (owned/leased)
  1 unit Payloader (owned/leased)
  1 unit Jackhammer with Compressor (owned/leased)
  1 unit Road Grader (owned/leased)
  1 unit Road Roller (owned/leased)
  1 unit Water Truck (owned/leased)
  2 units one bagger Concrete Mixer (owned)
  2 units Concrete Vibrator (owned)
  1 unit Bar Cutter (owned)
  1 unit Concrete Cutter (owned)
  1 unit Welding Machine (owned)
  1 unit Gas Cutting Outfit w/ oxy-acetylene (owned/leased)
- Required PCAB Registration — Small B – Ports & Harbor
- Cost of Eligibility Documents — P 1,000.00 (exclusive of VAT)
- Project Duration — 150 Calendar Days

The Philippine Ports Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Further information may be obtained from the following:

BAC Secretariat — Telephone Nos. 501-8138, 235-4128
PPA Website — www.ppa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) RICHARD B. ELOPRE
Chairman, BAC-Engineering Projects
PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran

Noted:
(Sgd.) RAUL R. OBLENDA
Port Manager

(PDI – September 1 & 8, 2006)

IN THE KNOW

Securing RP airports responsibility of OTS

In April 2004, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Executive Order No. 311 designating the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) as "the appropriate single authority responsible for the security of the transportation systems of the country."

The OTS, which is under the Department of Transportation and Communication, has "operational control and supervision" over law enforcement agencies and personnel securing airports, such as the Air Transportation Office (ATO), Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG), National Bureau of Investigation, PNP Narcotics Command, Bureau of Fire Protection, as well as other security personnel hired by airports and airlines, among others.

The OTS is mandated to "exercise responsibility for security operations, including . . . security screening of passengers, baggage and cargoes, and the hiring, retention, training and testing of screening personnel."

In coordination with concerned agencies, the OTS is also tasked to "formulate, develop, promulgate and implement comprehensive security plans, policies, measures, strategies and programs" to cope with possible threats to transportation systems.

The PNP-ASG, on the other hand, is tasked to secure the country's airports "against offensive and terroristic acts that threaten civil aviation." PNP-ASG personnel can be seen screening passengers, baggage and cargo inside airports, or checking cars within airport premises.

The management in bigger facilities, such as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport or the Mactan International Airport, may also post additional security personnel. Some private airlines also hire their own security personnel.

In smaller domestic airports, the main security work is undertaken by the PNP-ASG, in coordination with the ATO. The PNP-ASG also oversees security guards hired by smaller airports.

The PNP-ASG is deemed responsible in case a terrorist manages to get past the security checks and board a plane. According to Supt. Elias Abad, assistant director for operations of the PNP-ASG, crisis management teams have been put in place to respond to terrorist acts. When intelligence reports suggest that a terror threat is highly possible, the PNP-ASG deploys air marshals on planes.

The OTS will investigate security lapses and identify those who are at fault by backtracking and determining the security officers whom the terrorist had managed to give the slip. The OTS, however, does not have any power to impose sanctions.

The 2005 national budget sets aside P1 million for the OTS, which is headed by Undersecretary Cecilio Penilla, a retired PNP official. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

AIRPORT police armed with machine pistols patrol the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. REUTERS

PASSENGERS pass through tight security checks at the airport. JESS YUSON

Security official says Naia has right men, gear vs terrorists

By Nikko Dizon

A POLICE SECURITY OFFICIAL AT the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) remained confident the security procedures at the country's premier airport were enough to prevent terrorist attacks.

"We have the right equipment and the right personnel who undergo regular training," Supt. Rizalino Roxas, operations chief of the Airport Security Center (ASC), told the INQUIRER.

Roxas is a member of the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group that is responsible for the air side security of the entire airport complex and is tasked with responding to hijacking and terrorism.

Naia is equipped with more modern X-ray machines compared with the country's six other international airports in Laoag, Subic, Clark, Cebu, Davao and Zamboanga, according to Roxas.

The Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) has equipped the Naia Terminals 1 and 2, as well as the Centennial Domestic Terminal and Manila Domestic Airport, with Heiman and AOM X-rays.

The German-made Heiman X-rays are newer than the AOM, which the Miaa has been using for the past decade.

However, Roxas acknowledged that the X-ray models were still not top-of-the-line. "There are still newer models of the X-ray machine," he said.

The domestic terminal also uses some X-rays that are "hand-me-downs" from the international terminals. "Somehow, the international terminals are given priority," Roxas said.

The Miaa and the ASG evaluate what security equipment are placed in the terminals.

Roxas said security officials like him do have a wish list for the airport terminals' security equipment.

This includes a T5500, an oven-type X-ray, and a T4 analyzer, also known as an itemizer.

The "very expensive" T5500 is capable of examining baggage from any angle, while an itemizer can detect explosives using a swab.

For its part, the Airline Operators Council (AOC) said airlines operating at the Naia could only make do with what the airport can offer.

At best, the airlines are left with no choice but to cooperate with the security measures being implemented by the Miaa.

"We live with what we have and pray that nothing happens," said AOC chair Leoncio Nakpil.

Nakpil, an airline security officer, said the airlines were aware of the "shortcomings" of the airport and just "take the necessary adjustments and precautions."

"We can't say that all the pieces of equipment at the airport are old, but most airlines have their own redundancy checks at the final screening," Nakpil said.

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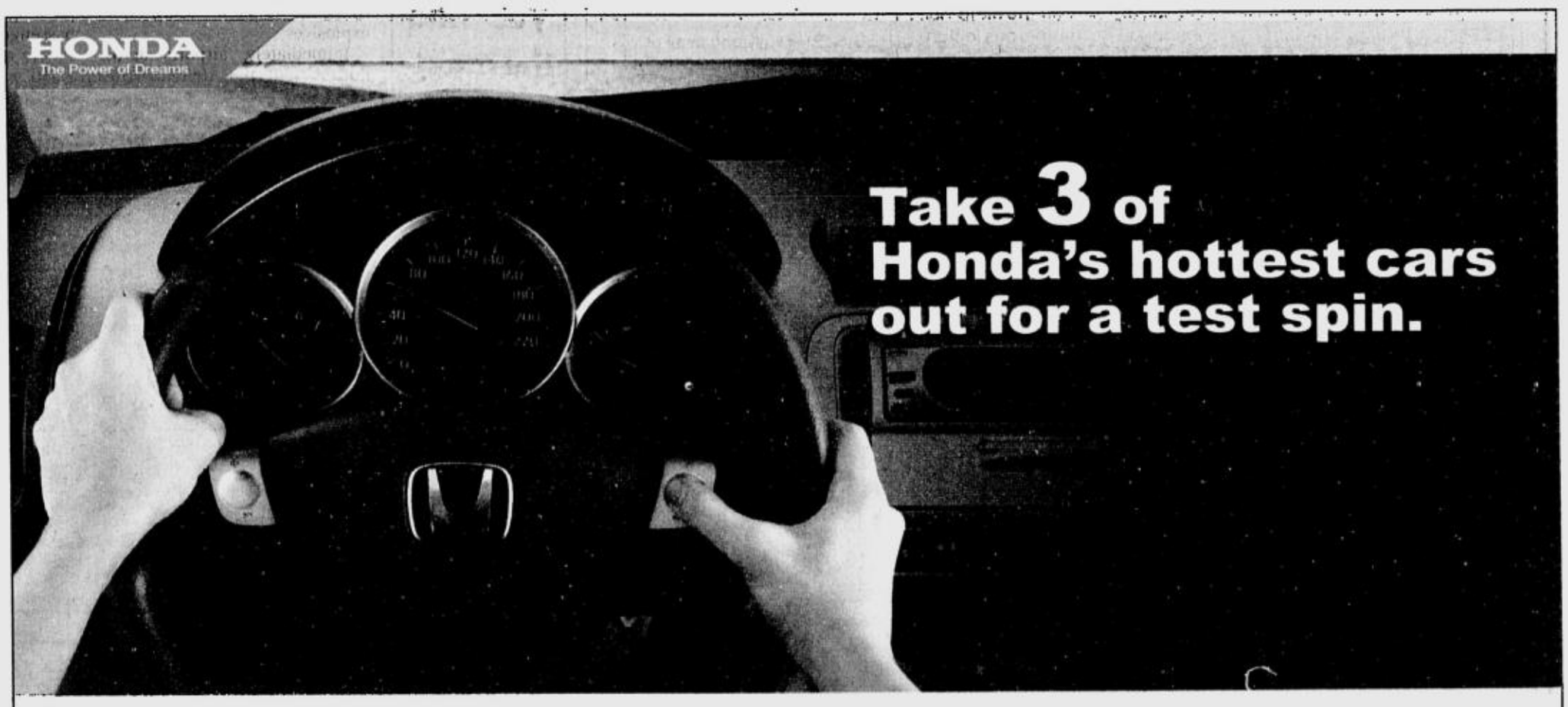

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NBI seeks filing of raps vs 2 nursing board execs

From page A1

for the nursing board exams. Its other former members are Eufemia Octaviano (chair), Remedios Fernandez, Estelita Galutira and Letty Kuan.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered that the six be replaced because of the cheating controversy that has tainted the conduct of exams by the Professional Regulation Commission.

Elfren Meneses Jr., chief of the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division, said the investigation showed that Dionisio and Madela had allegedly violated Section 15 of Republic Act No. 8981, or the PRC Modernization Act of 2000.

Under the law, manipulation and other corrupt practices in the conduct of professional exams are punishable by six to 12 years in prison.

"Our report has yet to pass through the bureau's legal division for evaluation before we could file charges before the Department of Justice," Meneses said.

Meneses said the two examiners had failed to appear before the NBI on Wednesday after asking for a one-week extension to file their affidavits.

Deans

He said the investigation would continue even after it filed the initial charges.

"Aside from determining the source of the leakage, we will also find out who benefited from it," Meneses said. "Nobody is off the hook."

Meneses said the NBI would also call at least 150 deans of different nursing schools to gain insights into how review centers work.

Two review centers reportedly obtained the leaked questions and answers for Tests III (medical-surgical nursing) and V (psychiatric nursing) and shared them with their students during a two-day final coaching session. The session was also attended by a number of nursing school deans.

"We want to find out why nursing graduates still enroll in review schools and what they get from these," the NBI official said.

Meneses earlier disclosed that the examiners' manuscripts may have been the source of the alleged leakage, which was first exposed by nursing graduates who took the exams in Baguio City on June 11 and 12.

He said statements from photocopying personnel near St. Louis University in Baguio City showed that they copied as many as 18 pages "of what they thought were review materials."

"This only shows that the manuscript, containing 500 questions conceived by the examiner, may have been the source of the leakage, and not the test questions from the PRC, which only contain 100 questions," Meneses said in an earlier interview.

Travel records

The NBI official said the bureau had requested the examiners' travel records from the Bureau of Immigration to confirm if they traveled abroad before the licensure examinations.

A nursing graduate who took review classes at Inress claimed that George Cordero, owner of the review center, had boasted that he brought two BON members to Switzerland and paid for the trip.

He was also quoted as saying that he did not pay P7 million for nothing. Cordero has denied the allegations.

Cordero was the president of the Philippine Nurses Association, which nominates members to the BON, when the June nursing board exams were administered. He has resigned from the PNA amid the controversy.

"We have already established that the examiners are government officials and could be charged with violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act if they flew abroad without the necessary travel orders," Meneses said.

Money laundering

Aside from investigating if the examiners traveled with officials of review centers, the NBI has coordinated with the Anti-Money Laundering Council to check if large sums were transferred from review centers.

Because of the cheating, certain sectors have called for the holding of another round of examinations for those who took the June nursing exams. Some hospitals are now reluctant to hire those who passed the exams.

But the PRC has rejected calls for a retake, saying it has nullified 90 of the 100 questions for Test V and recomputed the grades of the examinees.

The Far Eastern University disagrees with the PRC decision.

"FEU takes the position that Tests III and V, or even the entire test, should be retaken. It (PRC) says the score for Test V, computed based on the first four previous tests' scores, cannot be reflective of the students' competency in neuro-psychiatric nursing," Annabelle Reyes Borromeo, newly appointed dean of the FEU Institute of Nursing and other FEU officials said in a statement.

Borromeo said: "FEU-IN students have signified their intention to retake Tests III and V, or even the entire test. However, FEU-IN students are calling for some reforms and for the exams to be administered at no cost to them and with at least two month's notice."

To assure the integrity of future nursing board exams, FEU called for the review of the screening process for nominees to the BON and regulation of review centers.

Employment prospects

The leakage may have tainted the credibility of Filipino nurses but it will not significantly affect their chances of being employed abroad, the head of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said.

"Our nurses are still the top choice of foreign hospitals because of the quality of our nursing education, which is considered at par with that in Canada, Japan, the United States and Australia," POEA chief Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said in a statement. *With reports from Jerome Aning and Alcuin Papa*

Was leak deliberate?

By Alcuin Papa

WAS THE LEAKAGE IN THE last nursing exams the result of carelessness or a carefully crafted conspiracy?

This question surfaced as it was revealed that one member of the Board of Nursing (BON) claimed her poor health caused her to misplace her belongings, while another member had her own set of questions photocopied.

The results of an internal investigation conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) showed that BON members Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madeja may have been guilty of neglect, which led to the leak.

The PRC fact-finding committee investigating the leak had recommended the filing of administrative charges against the two BON members.

If found guilty, the two could be stripped of their registration and license to practice their profession. The committee also recommended that the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) step in to determine the criminal liability of the two and others who might be involved in the leak.

In its report, the committee said Dionisio, who appeared before them, "blamed her poor health condition as the main cause why her test question manuscript leaked out to unscrupulous individuals and eventually ended up as leakage."

But the committee noted that it was not convinced of Dionisio's reasons. They said she even served as a resource person of the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) during their trip to Switzerland in May.

Dionisio, the committee noted, "looked sharp and intelligent as before when she gave her statement and answered questions during her appearance before the committee."

For her part, Madeja admitted that she had 17 pages of her test manuscript photocopied on June 7 at the Alva Computer and Photocopying Services, just across from the PRC office on Nicanor Reyes Street in Manila.

Madeja said that she had the photocopying stopped "when she noticed the machine operator transferring from one machine to another while photocopying and a man standing nearby looking at her materials."

But the committee said the leak from Madeja's notes "could not have come from the photocopying incident since the leakage notes covered 56 situations compared with the 15 situations contained in the 17 pages" photocopied in the shop.

Both Madeja and Dionisio's notes ended up as leakage and were distributed by the Gapuz and Inress review centers. Inress is owned by former PNA president George Cordero.

3 DAYS to go!

The 27th MANILA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

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SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2006, FRIDAY

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Forum on the Interconnectivity of Reading and Civic Involvement, Book Talk: Twelve Little Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country by Atty. Alexander L. Lacson by Phil. Librarians Association, Inc. and Phil. Booksellers Association, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Forum on Book Writing, Publishing and Selling by Philippine Group of Law Librarians

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Teaching for Change: Seminar on Transformative Education. Speaker: Mr. Onofre Pagsanghan by C & E Publishing, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Lecture-Forum on Reinventing Information Literacy Speakers: Ms. Zarah Grace Gagatiga and Mr. Rene C. Romero by Philippine Association of Teachers of Library Science and Information Science

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Story Telling by Edcrisch International, Inc.

3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Function Room A
Health, Beauty and Wellness by Medical & Health Librarians Association of the Philippines

3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Activity Area
Spa Training by Bagong Heneresyon Foundation, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Dianetics Introductory Lecture by New Era International Publication Aps and the Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines

5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching by TESDA/Anvil Publishing, Inc.

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Makati Skyline
2006 Grand Book Launch and 49th Anniversary Celebration (By Invitation) by OMF Literature, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2006, SATURDAY

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Launch of OMF Literature's Golden Year Writing Competition (By Invitation) by OMF Literature, Inc.

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Activity Area
Spa Training by Bagong Heneresyon Foundation, Inc.

12:00 NN - 5:30 P.M.
Function Room A
27th National Quiz Bee - Manila and Pasay City Division Championship by Quiz Bee Foundation

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Hiyas Children's Books: Story Telling and Author Signing by OMF Literature, Inc.

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Robotics Demonstration by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Dianetics Introductory Lecture by New Era International Publication Aps and the Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Activity Area
More than a Story featuring Ms. Melody Remorca by Bookwagon

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Story Telling by Vibal Publishing House, Inc.

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching by St Pauls

SEPTEMBER 3, 2006, SUNDAY

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Book Launching, Film Showing and Presentation of Supreme Sign by Eternal Publication

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Spa Training by Bagong Heneresyon Foundation, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Pistang Panitik
by Anvil Publishing, Inc. & Unyon Ng Mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas/Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo; University of the Philippines Likhaan: UP Institute of Creative Writing; UP Quill; UP UGAT; UP Writers Club; Ateneo de Manila University Press; Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts and Practices (AILAP); De La Salle University Bienvenido Santos Creative Writing Center; University of Sto. Tomas Publishing House; Thomasian Writers Guild; UST Center for Creative Writing and Research

3:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Activity Area
Bare Hands Reflexology
by Bagong Heneresyon Foundation, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Dianetics Introductory Lecture
by New Era International Publication Aps and the Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Mass

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September 1, 2006, Friday
Power Dressing with Fashion Show
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Function Room A

September 3, 2006, Sunday
Successful Job Hunting Tips
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Function Room A

Corporate Manners with Fashion Show
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 n.n., Function Room A

Modeling for Beginners
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Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(LASURECO)
Provincial Capitol, Marawi City, Telefax (063) 3520005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The management of Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LASURECO) through its Bidding and Award Committee (BAC) with office address at New Capitol Complex, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur invites all qualified supplier to bid for the purchase of various electrical supplies described below for the upgrading and rehabilitation of Distribution Lines at Marawi City with approved funding from Department of Energy (DOE).

ITEM NO.	PARTICULARS	QUANTITY
1	Steel Pole Octagonal, Heavy Duty 45 Feet 40 Feet 35 Feet 30 Feet	20 pcs 100 pcs 200 pcs 90 pcs
2	Conductor, Bare Wire, ACSR 2/0 AWG 1/0 AWG	48,550 meters 80,000 meters
3	Conductor, Insulated, ACSR 2/0 AWG 1/0 AWG	16,000 meters 20,000 meters
4	Distribution Transformer, CSP (Brand New) 25 KVA 50 KVA	20 units 15 units
5	Cut-out Arresters Combination with Load Break 100 Amps 200 Amps	55 units 12 units
6	Line Hardwares (Standard)	1 lot

The approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is Twenty million one hundred eighty two thousand five hundred four/twelve (P 20,182,504.12). All particulars relative to Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provision of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR). Attendance in the Pre-bidding Conference is strictly enjoined.

The Shedule of BAC Activities:

BAC Activities	Venue	Date
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of letter of intent	• LASURECO Office, New Capitol Complex, Marawi City	• September 6, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Documents	- do -	• September 8, 2006
3. Receipt & Opening of bids	- do -	• September 12, 2006 @ 10 o'clock AM
4. First delivery of equipment and materials	- do -	• September 21, 2006
5. Second Delivery of equipment and materials	- do -	• October 5, 2006
6. Third Delivery of equipment and materials	- do-	• October 10, 2006

Bids documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P 2,500.00 per contract to LASURECO.

The LASURECO reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) COL. TATAR M. BORIONGAN, GSC (RET)
Chairman, BAC

Noted:
(Sgd.) BALIAMEN P. MAMAINTE, MNSA
General Manager

(PDI – September 1, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 12,177,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply & Delivery of Various Equipment for the Power Distribution System of Cavite Economic Zone
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following items grouped into the following lots with their corresponding ABC

Lot 1	- 54 Units Distribution Transformers	PhP 10,347,000.00
Lot 2	- 60 Units Fuse Cutout 60 Units Lightning Arrester	PhP 1,560,000.00
Lot 3	- 6 Units Concrete Pole	PhP 270,000.00
	TOTAL	PhP 12,177,000.00

3. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
4. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. ITB.
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and at least three (3) years experience in the manufacture and/or supply of the proposed product and is able to supply, install configure the proposed products and provide after sales support. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents. ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be inspected and/or purchased by interested Bidders from 01-15 September 2006, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP 10,000.00 for Lot 1 and PhP 1,000.00 for Lots 2 & 3 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 25 September 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St. Pasay City.
8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 09 October 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted
9. Bid opening shall be on 09 October 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall PEZA Bldg. Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend
10. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day
11. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel No 891-6444 / Telefax No 551-9587
e-mail peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website www.peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 1 & 8, 2006)

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September 1 - 14, 2006

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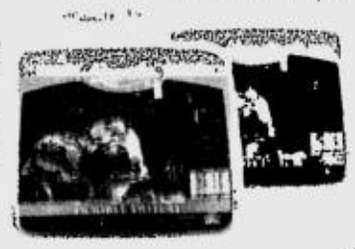
COOKBEST
Cooking Oil
Half Gallon
₱104.25 each

MAGNOLIA
Daily Quezo
200g
₱25.25 each



MAGNOLIA
Ice Cream Double Dutch
Half Gallon
₱218.50 each *

DEL
Fabric Conditioner Yellow
240ml
₱24.50 each

GLIDE
Fresh Bouquet
240ml
₱21 each

HOT BUY

SENSA WHITE
Lotion
50g
₱65.50 each

FREE Face Cream 5g

SENSA WHITE
Soap
80g
₱29.75 each

CDO
Bibbo Cheesedog
230g
₱43.25 each *

PAMPANGA'S BEST
Tocino
480g
₱78.50 each *

SAN MIG COFFEE
Extra Strong
Sugar Free 12g (10's)
₱56 each

SUN POTATO CRISPS
American Style
Grilled Cheese (55g)
₱15.50 each

CENTURY TUNA
Flakes in Vegetable Oil
Hot & Spicy (180g)
₱23.75 each

ASTRING-O-SOL
Ice
250ml
₱130 each

FEMME
Bathroom Tissue
2 ply (4's)
₱29.50 each

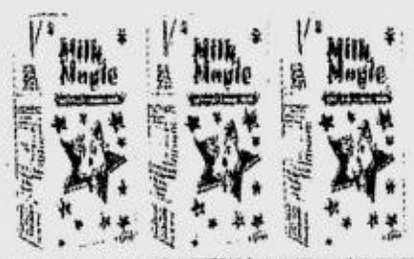
GRANDEUR
Italian
12g (12's)
₱140.75 each

SUN SHOTS
Super Sour Cream
12g
₱3.75 each

CENTURY TUNA
Flakes in Vegetable Oil Lite
180g
₱25.50 each

FEMME
Bathroom Tissue
2 ply (12's)
₱87.50 each

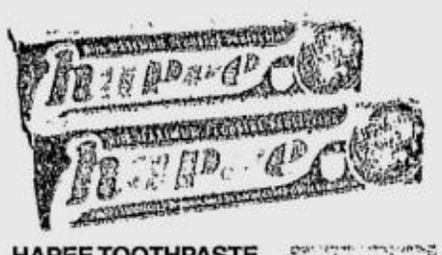
SILKA PAPAYA
Soap
135g
₱27.25 each



MILK MAGIC
Full Cream Milk
1 Liter
₱49.50 each

JELLY ACE
Ice-Ice Creamy Shake
8's
₱25.50 each

CDO
Vienna Sausage
70g
₱14.05 each



HAPEE TOOTHPASTE
Explosive Menthol Red
50ml
₱47.50 each

ASTRING-O-SOL
Freshmint
60ml
₱51.50 each

MILK MAGIC
Low Fat Milk
900ml
₱49.50 each

JELLY ACE
Mixed Fruits
12's
₱9.75 each

CDO
Karne Norte
175g
₱21.35 each

SILKA PAPAYA
Lotion
500ml
₱149 each

HAPEE TOOTHPASTE
Blue Chill
150ml
₱48.25 each

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Hi-Calcium
400g.
Reg. Price: P186.25
₱178.75

P & N
Apple Juice
2 Liters
Reg. Price: P171.75
₱163

GARD SHAMPOO
Refreshing Menthol
200ml
Reg. Price: P90.50
₱86.50

WALTER
Sugar-Free
Wheat Bread
Reg. Price: P57.50
₱54 *

BANGUS
3-4
Reg. Price: P99
₱92 *

PHILBEST TUNA
Flakes in Vegetable Oil
Hot & Spicy
Reg. Price: P24.25
₱22.75

NIDO
Full Cream
700g
Reg. Price: P205.50
₱199

BLUE ANGEL
Alcohol 70%
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Reg. Price: P47.50
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Comelec junks petition for 'people's initiative'

From page A1

the 6 million signatures that purportedly backed the petition. The signatures were certified by local election officers.

However, the Comelec said the petition appeared to meet the required number of registered voters—12 percent nationwide and at least 3 percent per legislative district.

Referendum question

The question in the people's initiative was:

"Do you approve of the amendment of Articles VI and VII of the 1987 Constitution, changing the form of government from the present bicameral-presidential to a unicameral-parliamentary system of government in order to achieve greater efficiency, simplicity and economy in government; and providing an article XVIII as transitory provisions for the orderly shift from one system to another?"

Abalos said the Comelec would keep the petition and the accompanying signatures and certifications of verification as part of its records unless the Supreme Court asks it to produce them when an appeal is made.

He said the Comelec was not pressured by anyone and that the decision only showed that it was an independent body. "We do what we believe is right and we do what we believe is the best for the country," he said.

Abalos also said efforts to amend the Constitution would not stop the holding of next year's elections. He said Congress had approved P1.5 billion for the Comelec's preparations for the balloting.

Initial stage

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the Comelec action was just the "initial stage."

"We know that whatever the decision of the Comelec, whether it's for or against, it will eventually reach the Supreme Court," Bunye told reporters.

He reiterated that Ms Arroyo favored a review of the Constitution but "as to how and what manner this will be done, she leaves this to the courts and the people."

"The stage is set for the high court to settle the unconditional feasibility of the people's initiative once and for all," said Gabriel Claudio, the President's political adviser.

Sigaw ng Bayan spokesperson Raul Lambino said the Comelec's action was a "big victory for us."

"This is just the first strike against us. We have already scored a home run as evidenced by our success in the signature gathering and the verification by the Comelec field officials. We are not out of the game," Lambino said.

He said Sigaw and Ulap will definitely appeal the decision in the Supreme Court, adding, "We have complete trust that the high tribunal will give due course to our petition."

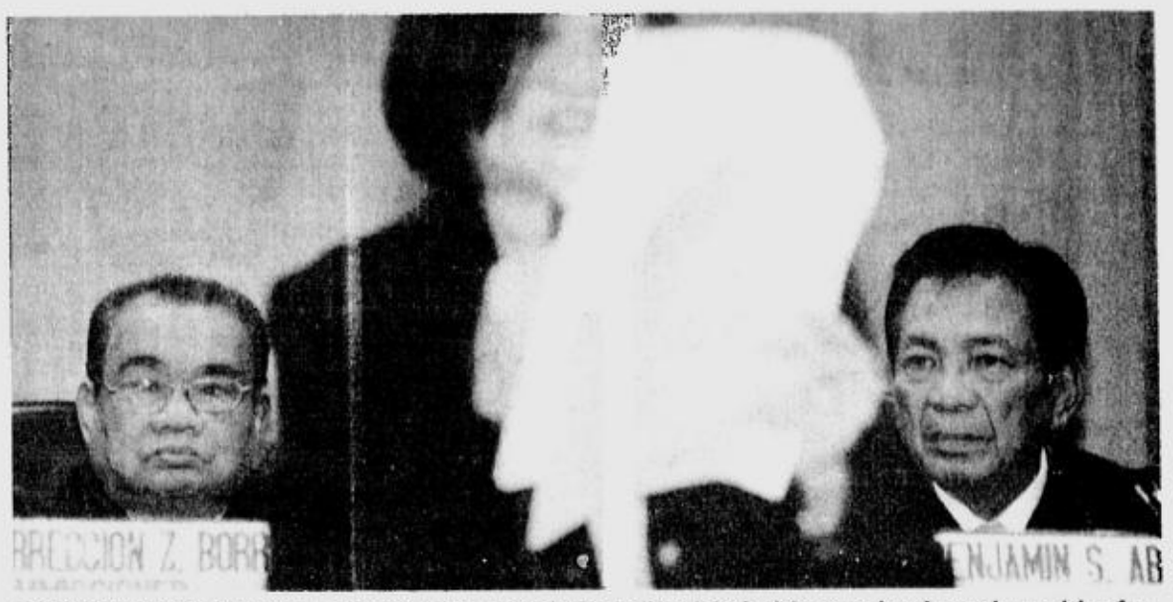
Long shot

Marlon Manuel of the Alternative Lawyers Group (ALG) that opposed the initiative said it was a "long shot" the high court would reverse its previous ruling without significant justification. "In this case, there is none."

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said the Comelec decision was a case of "the left hand taking back what the right hand has given."

"The zarzuela has begun," said Binay, chair of the United Opposition. "The seeming stamp of validity of the Comelec on the signatures presented to it effectively dismissed the issue of fraudulent and unqualified signatures, particularly in Makati and San Juan."

Leah Navarro of Stop Cha-cha called the Comelec ruling "a blatant moro-moro."



COMELEC Clerk of Court Josefina de la Cruz reads the poll body's decision turning down the petition for a people's initiative to change the Constitution filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap). Flanking her are Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra and Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. REM ZAMORA

"It is clear that they are railroading us into a plebiscite," she said.

Plan B

Senators welcomed the Comelec action and expected the battle to shift to the Supreme Court or the convening of a constituent assembly as "Plan B" of the administration effort to introduce the parliamentary system.

Except for Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, senators believe the constituent assembly being pushed by the House as a second option for Charter change would not prosper.

Santiago also said that there was no room for the high court to reverse its ruling in the case she filed and won against the Comelec in 1997. "The chances of a people's initiative reversal in the Supreme Court is nil."

"Everything that is happening now is expected," said Senate President Manuel Villar.

"They will go for a last-ditch attempt to either postpone or cancel the elections next year or have an election for parliamentary (government). So they would do everything because if they cannot do it in a month or two, the status quo remains," Villar said.

"The question is: Can the Supreme Court afford to declare (the petition) as legal considering there is no enabling law, then it is proposing a revision, not to mention doubts on the authenticity of the signatures. So on those three points alone, I think it will be very difficult to hurdle," Villar said.

Court can do nothing

But Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said the high court could also "do nothing" about the people's initiative if it is brought before it.

"Meaning, the plan is to let the administration conduct a plebiscite and when they win, the Supreme Court has an excuse to say that 'What can we do? The people have spoken'," Osmeña said.

Villar said there was no time either for a constituent assembly which the House leadership was pushing even without the Senate.

"Even if they go full blast, it won't reach first base in the Senate so what's the point?" said Sen. Joker Arroyo.

"The Senate and the House are like Siamese twins, they cannot be separated. They (House) can have 250 signatures and it won't matter as long as there is no concurrence from the Senate," Arroyo said.

But Santiago said the House formula stood better chances of being approved in the Supreme Court than the people's initiative.

She said the constitutional provision on amendments by a three-fourths vote of "all members of Congress" could be interpreted by the court as allowing for a joint voting, not separately as the Senate argues.

"The constitutional provision is vague or ambivalent, it lacks specificity that the SC can interpret it either way," she said.

'Save nation now'

Speaker Jose de Venecia, the main proponent of Charter change, called on the Supreme Court "to save the nation now" by settling the debate on the sufficiency of Republic Act No. 6735, the law governing people's initiative.

On Monday, De Venecia announced that the House resolution calling for a constituent assembly was only two signatures short of the "Magic 194."

The resolution was crafted to comply with the constitutional requirement that a vote of three-fourths of all members of Congress could already convert the legislature into an assembly to introduce amendments to, or revision of, the Constitution.

However, the constituent assembly would serve as a "reserve ammunition" once the people's initiative fails, according to De Venecia, admitting the two-pronged strategy being employed by the administration camp to ensure success of Charter change. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendaño and Tara V. Quismundo*

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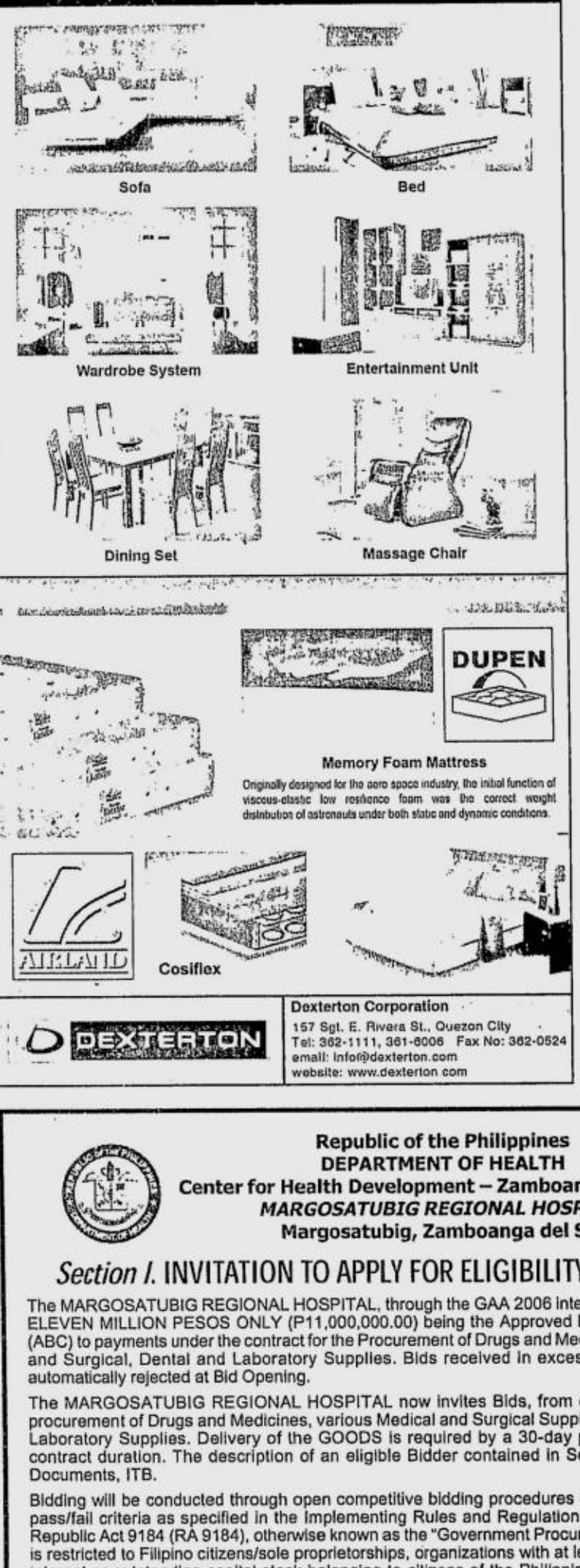

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5 bridges to connect Visayas

From page A1

Aumentado, Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz and seven other governors of the Visayas met in Bacolod City on Wednesday and passed a resolution calling on Ms Arroyo to speed up the project.

Arnaiz said the feasibility study was estimated to cost P128 million.

In their resolution, the governors asked the national government to pay for 50 percent of the cost of the study while the provinces to be interconnected by the bridges will pay for the other 50 percent, he said.

Arnaiz said construction of the project, excluding the Leyte portion, would cost about P114 billion at P1 billion a kilometer.

"If we continue to press the national government to help build the bridges, something may happen," he said.

A German bank has expressed willingness to fund the project, Arnaiz said.

Concept paper

"Pacific Consultants International, a Japanese consulting firm, has given us a concept paper on the bridges and is conducting the pre-feasibility study pro bono," Aumentado said.

When that is done, an actual feasibility study will be made, which will include the detailed engineering and will identify sources of funding because it is a huge undertaking that the Philippine government could not fund on its own, he said.

"It's a vision and the President has realized that it is the fastest way of linking the Visayas region," he said.

All the governors of the Visayas support this project that will accelerate economic development and services, Aumentado said.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said the Department of Public Works and Highways proposed to build a 20-km bridge from Negros to Guimaras.

However, Marañon said he believed it would be cheaper to build one from Tomontong, EB Magalona, to Banate, Iloilo, since the length of the bridge would be only 15 km.

Financing

The national government can fund the construction or the provinces can be given access to foreign loans at concessional rates, Marañon said.

The project can also be implemented through a build-operate-transfer scheme, with toll fees collected for the use of the bridges to get a return on investment, he said.

While he does not believe the project will be completed during his term, Marañon said it was important to start it.

He urged other governors to implement their portion of the project so that the construction period would be simultaneous.

Biliran Gov. Rogelio Espina said his province would benefit from the proposed bridges that would be connected to Leyte, which in turn would be linked to Bohol and on to Cebu.

Overall regional dev't

"We believe that the development of a province needs the development of the region," he said.

Both Siquijor Gov. Orlando Fua Jr. and Antique Gov. Salvacio Perez-Zaldivar said their provinces would still benefit even if it would not be included in the project.

"We will just have to strengthen our roll-on, roll-off facilities to compensate for the nonbuilding of a bridge," Fua said.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development – Zamboanga Peninsula
MARGOSATUBIG REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur

Section I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The MARGOSATUBIG REGIONAL HOSPITAL, through the GAA 2006 intends to apply the sum of ELEVEN MILLION PESOS ONLY (P11,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Drugs and Medicines, various Medical and Surgical, Dental and Laboratory Supplies. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The MARGOSATUBIG REGIONAL HOSPITAL now invites Bids, from eligible Bidders for the procurement of Drugs and Medicines, various Medical and Surgical Supplies, various Dental and Laboratory Supplies. Delivery of the GOODS is required by a 30-day period or the expected contract duration. The description of an eligible Bidder contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of the Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens and organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from MARGOSATUBIG REGIONAL HOSPITAL and inspect the bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The MARGOSATUBIG REGIONAL HOSPITAL will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 8, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at MRH Conference Hall, Poblacion Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before September 18, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Surety Bond except GSIS Bidders Bond and in the amount of TWO MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P2,200,000.00) for CATEGORY I; or ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P1,200,000.00) for CATEGORY II or THREE MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,300,000.00) for both CATEGORY I AND II. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on September 19, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at MRH Conference Hall, Poblacion Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend below.

The MARGOSATUBIG REGIONAL HOSPITAL reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

MARGOSATUBIG REGIONAL HOSPITAL
MRS. VILMA B. DOCTOR
BAC Vice-Chairman
Poblacion Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur
0921-5606181

(Sgd.) DANILO D. ALFARO, M.D.
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 25 & Sept. 1, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development II
SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL
Rosario, Santiago City
Tel. No. 078-682-7687

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL through its Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HOBAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Procurement of Drugs & Medicines, Medical Supplies, Laboratory Supplies, X-ray & Dental Supplies
Location		Zamora Street, Cor. Recto Avenue, Brgy. Rosario, Santiago City
Brief Description	:	1. Drugs and Medicines - 4,600,000.00 2. Medical Supply - 13,526,908.00 3. a. Laboratory - 7,779,837.00 b. Dental - 482,000.00 c. X-ray - 254,863.00
Approved Budget For the Contract	:	Php 26,643,608.00
Contract Duration		One (1) Year from date of Award
Delivery Period		Per Purchase Order (PO) / Quarter

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project at least within the last two (2) number of years, with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirmeent is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Activities	Schedule	Time	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 1 September 12, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference
2. Pre-bid Conference	September 12, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference
3. Submission and Opening of Bid Documents	September 25, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Administrative Office
4. Bid Evaluation	September 26 - October 4, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference
5. Post-qualification	October 09, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference
6. Notice of Award	October 13, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference

For single-stage bidding:

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Php 2,000.00 to the Southern Isabela General Hospital Cashier.

The Southern Isabela General Hospital assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) GERMAN A. MABBAYAD, MD
HOBAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 1 & 7, 2006)

Oil firms slash prices by P1/liter

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL FIRMS YESTERday reduced prices of gasoline and kerosene by P1 a liter and diesel by 50 centavos a liter.

First to roll back prices were Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Seaoil Petroleum Corp. at 6 a.m., followed by Chevron Philippines Inc. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. at 7 a.m.

Total (Philippines) Corp. adjusted prices of the same products by the same levels at 12 noon.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. cut gasoline prices by P1 a liter and diesel prices by only 20 centavos a liter, following a price reduction of P1 a liter for gasoline and 30 centavos a liter implemented last Friday.

The oil firms cited softening world oil prices as the reason for the pump price reduction.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude dropped to an August average of $68.93 a barrel from $69.17 a barrel last month.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products fell significantly to an average of $81.61 a barrel in the first 30 days of the month from the July average of $85.50 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel was pegged at an Aug. 1-30 average of $87.42 a barrel against the $87.37-a-barrel average registered last month.

Yesterday's rollback brings premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P41.77 and P44.56 a liter, diesel to between P35.77 and P37.46 a liter, and kerosene to between P39.19 and P43 a liter.

All prices include 12-percent VAT.

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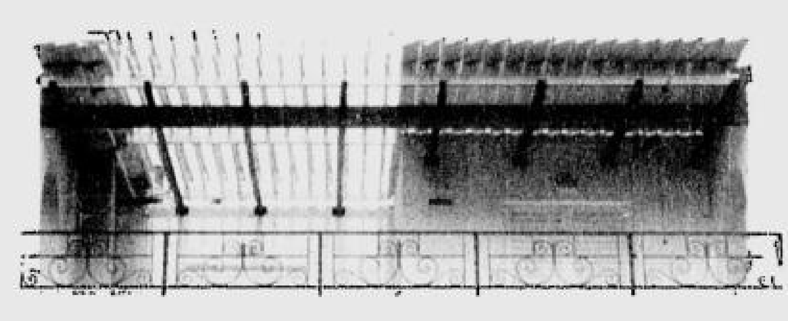

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REJOINDER TO THE PMA ADVERTISEMENT:

The Philippine Marketing Association caused the publication of highly malicious, defamatory, and libelous advertisements against some of the country's most prestigious awards organizations in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on August 25, 2006 and in the Philippine Star on August 29, 2006 entitled "Manifesto in Support of the Complaint Against Specific Award-Giving Bodies." The advertisement referred to a complaint allegedly filed with the DTI for violation of Arts. 110 and 115 of R.A. No. 7394 against specific award-giving bodies. Art. 110 of Rep. Act No. 7394 refers to false, deceptive or misleading advertisements pertaining to products or services purchased by consumers. Art. 115 refers to special claims in advertisements.

The awards bodies vilified in the advertisement do not engage in the sale of products or services for consumers. Neither do they engage in advertising. The awards bodies attacked in the advertisement could, therefore, not even remotely be liable for violation of the Consumer Act. More importantly, the alleged complaint (not even received yet by any of the awards bodies denigrated) is just that. A complaint. There is no finding by the DTI of any violation of law. Every person or institution is presumed under the Constitution to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. And yet, the advertisements make it appear otherwise. The goal of the advertisements, therefore, was clearly to discredit and defame the awards bodies identified therein. The advertisements were a demolition job, part of a criminal campaign orchestrated by the current Board of Directors of the Philippine Marketing Association to destroy other legitimate, legal, and prestigious awards organizations in the Philippines that compete with its Agora Awards.

THE FACTS:

The Escalating Conflict: Non Payment of Taxes By PMA. The conflict with the PMA escalated when Atty. Manuel Jose R. Oyson III, President of the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards, and member of the PMA, requested for copies of financial statements of the PMA. It turns out that despite earning millions of pesos through the years through its many money-making activities (National Marketing Conference, Agora Awards, StratMark Conference, marketing seminars, etc.), the Philippine Marketing Association has not been paying Expanded Value Added Taxes (EVAT.) Complaints for tax evasion have already been filed with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Several newspapers have also already reported on the tax evasion by the PMA. In retaliation, the membership of Atty. Oyson was illegally terminated by the current PMA Board.

Credibility. The awardees are proof of credibility of the awards. The following are but some of the many who have received awards from the organizations attacked by the PMA: Jollibee, Samsung, Accel, Alaca Grow, Bayantel, PLDT, Fila, Page, Bench, Cebuana Lhuillier, Marby Bakeshop, PLDT WeRoam, French Baker, Isuzu Gencars, Loyola Plans, Malayan Insurance, Aimogo, Digiprint, Fortune Life, Let's Face It, Smart Communications, Glxosmithkline, Sta. Lucia Realty, HSBC, Yakult, Chocquik, Frutos, Go Nuts Donuts, Purefoods, San Miguel Corporation, Philippine Air Lines, Sunlife Financial, Medical City, Vitarich, Gibi Shoes, Imodium, Nizoral, Ritemed, Kamiseta, Marcella, Shakey's Pizza, Toyota, Heritage Park, Julies' Bakeshop, Magnolia Chicken, Maxicare, David Salon, AC Nielsen, Pet Plans, Moldex Realty, and many others.

Subsidy Fees. The PMA advertisement libelously stated that the awards bodies solicit "monetary consideration ("awards fees") in exchange for the awards". This is absolutely untrue. All awards recipients are carefully screened through surveys and market research. Those who meet the stringent criteria for selection are then conferred the award. Some awardees do financially support the activities of the awards bodies to defray the costs of market research, costs in staging the awards ceremonies (hotel expenses, dinner, etc.), and in consideration of the marketing mileage that consists of printing the names of awardees in: 1) a national newspaper; 2) a magazine (Shoppers' Choice Magazine, Marketing Insights Magazine, Consumer Today Magazine, Smart Business Magazine, etc.), 3) souvenir program; and 4) respective websites of the awards bodies. We submit that there is nothing wrong with awards recipients financially supporting the awards bodies. Even the Philippine Marketing Association receives financial contributions from its Agora awardees. In Civil Case No. 70867, PMA Dir. Mylene Sazon admitted on cross-examination, to quote: "Question: '*So, some awardees of the Agora awards have volunteered to give financial contributions to PMA. Is that correct?*' Answer: '*Yes, sir.*'"

Praise for the Awards. The awards bodies attacked by the PMA have been praised for their efforts by no less than Philippine Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Senate President Manny Villar, House Speaker Jose De Venecia, former Senate President Franklin Drilon and other senators. Their awards ceremonies have been graced by Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel, House Minority Floor Leader Francisco Escudero III, House Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin, former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, former PMA Pres. Donald Lim, former Tourism Sec. Roberto Pagdanganan, and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

The PMA: on the path to destruction. Because of the vilification campaign orchestrated by the current PMA Board of Directors, the PMA is now on a clear path to destruction. The PMA and its Board of Directors currently face no less than **THIRTY-FIVE** (and counting) civil and criminal cases before various courts and City Prosecutors' Offices filed by the defamed awards bodies in a bid to protect themselves as institutions and to safeguard the reputation and integrity of awards recipients. It will be left to the succeeding Boards to sort through the legal morass that the current Board has unfortunately created.

Yes, it is true that the awards organizations maligned by the Philippine Markerting Association, Tomas Banguis, and Mylene Sazon have together conferred awards to 3,000 select companies out of close to 1,000,000 companies in the Philippines. And we are proud to do our part in recognizing businesses all over the Philippines from Zamboanga City in the South to Baguio City in the North, including businesses in Metro Cebu, Davo City, Gen. Santos City, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Bulacan, and Batangas. And despite the lawless attacks of the PMA and its renagade Board, we will continue to honor and pay tribute to companies, big or small, that have excelled in business and marketing. We hope you join us in this mission.

Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards • National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards • Philippine Quality Award for Business Excellence • National Product Quality Excellence Awards • Star Brands Awards • International Management Excellence Awards • Global Awards for Marketing Excellence

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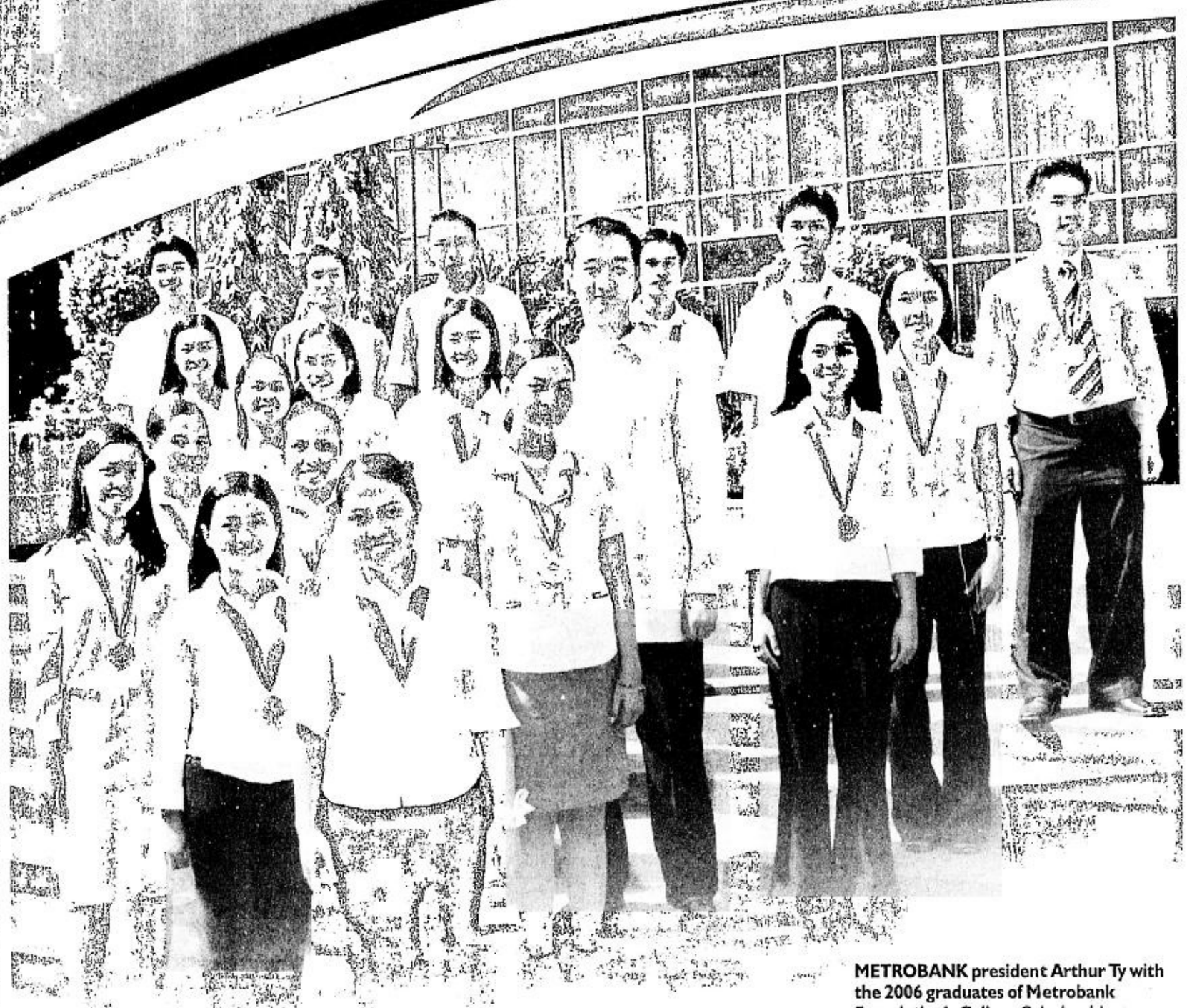

METROBANK president Arthur Ty with the 2006 graduates of Metrobank Foundation's College Scholarship Program Latin honor scholars.

Metrobank Foundation's contributions to nation building and its dedication to bring out and honor the best in the Filipino makes the organization an effective catalyst for social development

Bringing out the best in the Filipino

Working hand in hand in nation-building

The Foundation clearly defines the sectors that it thinks deserve to be given extra attention. These sectors are education, health, art, disadvantaged, and the Chinese-Filipino community, among others

METROBANK FOUNDATION INC HAS BEEN IN THE forefront of various corporate social responsibility projects that benefit key sectors in society for many years. To further extend its reach to more beneficiaries, the Foundation sees it fit to tie up with other organizations for it to give grants and technical assistance to like-minded social development institutions.

The Foundation clearly defines the sectors that it thinks deserve to be given extra attention. These sectors are education, health, art, disadvantaged, and the Chinese-Filipino community, among others.

A number of schools and organizations have been recipients of grants by the Foundation. It varies from scholarships for vocational courses, to training programs for street children.

On the same year the Foundation was established, it took controlling interest of one of the premier hospitals in the country, the Manila Doctors Hospital in Malate, Manila. This gave the Foundation an opportunity to actively support the Hospital with regular funding assistance in support of the latter's Social Service programs. This in turn allows the Hospital to give assistance to indigent patients, and fund several projects like medical missions, nutrition and immunization programs, and activities for the physically and mentally challenged.

Aside from education, the Foundation is also active in the health sector by way of partnership with selected non-government organizations as well as government agencies in the health care sector. Among its regular partners is the Philippine National Red Cross. Since 1993, the Foundation has been extending support to PNRC's blood donation campaigns and other health-related programs. PNRC is the foremost humanitarian organization in the country, always one of the first to respond during disasters and other calamities.

Another regular partner is Gawad Kalinga, which implements one of the most successful social housing projects in the country. GK did what seemed unattainable: build houses and build the Filipino spirit. Metrobank Foundation is not one to leave this noble project unnoticed. It extended a P1-million grant to GK that was used to build one whole community in Barangay Consuelo, Macabebe, Pampanga. The project benefited 23 families of formerly illegal settlers who get their livelihood from marginal fishing and minimal farming activities.

The Foundation has also been involved in assisting the Philippine Judicial Academy, establishing an endowment fund amounting to P1 million. For its part, the Rotary Club of Manila has held the Ten Outstanding Workers of the Republic (Tower) for the last three decades. Tower recognizes unsung blue collar or skilled workers who happen to be the backbone of the country's industrial sector. Metrobank Foundation realizes the importance of such recognition and as such, it has collaborated with the Rotary Club of Manila since 1999 by giving a substantial monetary incentive for each awardee.

These partnerships effectively widen the scope of beneficiaries of the Foundation's projects. It further enlarges not only the number of recipients but also enhances the nature of the programs implemented. It allows the Foundation to extend its resources as it pursues its mission to make a meaningful contribution to nation building.

Texts by Marlet D. Salaza

GOING BEYOND THE C responsibility is one of Metrobank Foundation a The role it has played in last 27 years is worth en within and outside the P unwavering commitment possible.

Long before the term co bility was coined, the Met already established a be foundations involved in co And it is simply because o SK Ty.

He believes that "leade means leadership in comm While the bank was succe Dr. Ty saw it fit to set up a animate his vision of assis uplifting various sectors 1979, the Metrobank Foun and it has since become an a culture of excellence amo

It is hard not to notice t always been in the forefro the educational system in t successful, and most antic Search for Outstanding T began in 1985. Even at th Foundation already recog dress the plight of the coun

Being one of the flagshi dation, SOT has encourag advancement of education ing to the fore the best tea before SOT was establis tapped the youth's talent i the National Painting Co success has made it possib panded program for the ar the Metrobank Art and Des Program with competitions or design, painting, and scu

The Foundation contin with Metrobank, and as the the programs of the Found note that the Foundation h panding the circle of excel From SOT to MADE, it ha recognition to policemen Country's for Outstanding (COPS), and The Outstand (TOPS). The Foundation a tance programs for ed Metrobank Math Challe Scholarship Program. Ove strengthened its grant-givi grams.

The Foundation's efforts cial change has been reco awards it has received Awards, Gold Quill Awards rendo Award for Outstandi ra Award of Excellence i the Asian Banking Award f and Asian CSR Awards. M also one of the founding m Corporate Foundations.

The vision and mission tinues to guide its operatio call of corporate goodwil tion's contributions to nati ication to bring out and h ipino makes the organizati for social development. It fulfilling its objectives in h change; the Foundation g members of different secto cess of bringing out the bes

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Heroes of our time

The Search for Outstanding Teachers (SOT) is more than just a program that gives out awards and incentives to outstanding educators. To these individuals, the thought of even being considered for such an honor is more than enough compensation for their commitment to stay on and help the country in their own small ways by raising future leaders.

To date there are already more than 250 teachers recognized for their remarkable dedication to the noblest profession and for exemplifying effective educational leadership in their respective fields. They have indeed become models of excellence in the teaching profession.

This year, the roster of winners includes historian, columnist, and educator Ambeth R. Ocampo. Ocampo, who has been teaching for 21 years and has since become a noted resource person in Philippine history, has virtually changed the landscape of teaching and learning history in our classrooms.

"One could say the problem is not with the subject but the teacher," Ocampo said in his essay. "Sometimes, I think I became a teacher because I did not like the way I was taught."

Over the years, the Search has become an inspiration for the next generation of educators to follow in the footsteps of their own mentors. One of this year's awardees is already the second generation of one of the first SOT recipients in 1985. Dr. Raquel Fortun was a Grade 6 student of Dr. Elena Cutiongco at the UP Integrated School in 1975,

The 2006 Search for Outstanding Teachers awardees include Prof. Ruth Lebes-Gelvezon from West Visayas State University in Iloilo City, Evelyn M. Kimpo of Banga Elementary School of Aklan, Editha R. Banguilan of Cabagan Science Elementary School in Isabela, and Ofelia L. Loñoza of Lucena North I Elementary School in Lucena City for the elementary level. For the secondary level the awardees are Olivia E. Caling of Ramon Magsaysay High School Manila, Gelly E. Alkuino of Irineo L. Santiago National High School of Metro Dadiangas, and Isabel S. Eman of San Policarpo National High School in Calbayog City. For higher education, Prof. Ocampo of the Ateneo de Manila University, Dr. del-Rosario-Fortun of the University of the Philippines Manila, and Dr. Soledad M. Roguel of Central Luzon State University of Nueva Ecija to complete the list.

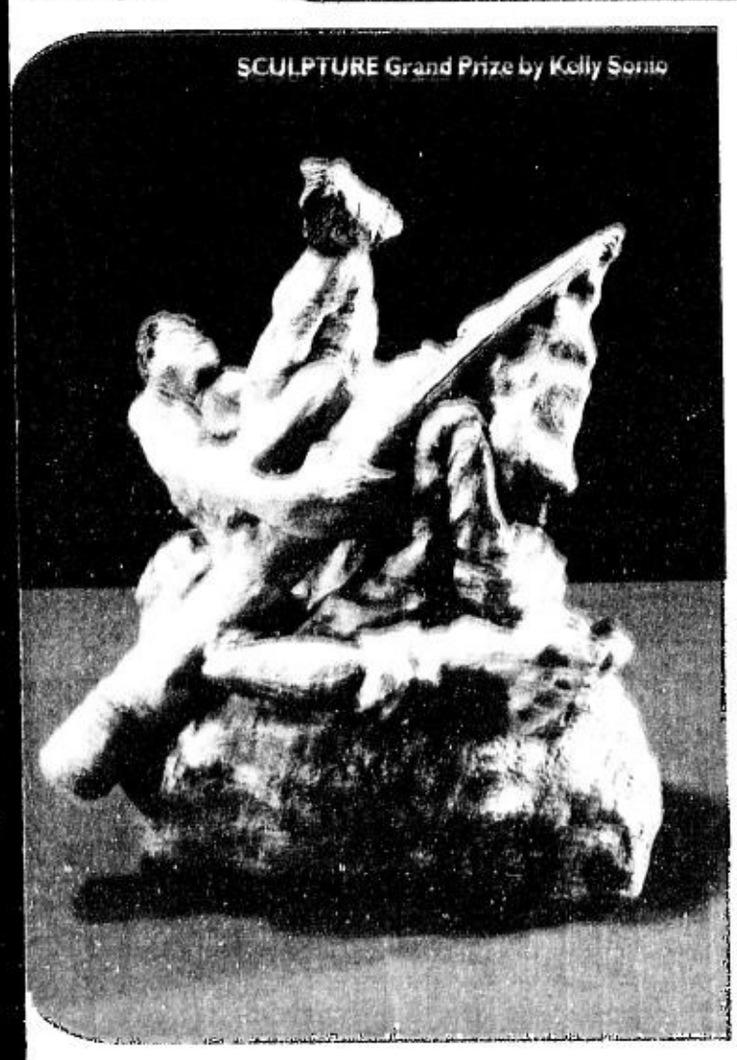
The awardees' participation in the Foundations efforts doesn't end with just receiving the awards. With the Network for Outstanding Teachers and Educators (NOTED), they get to nurture a culture of excellence and service among other educators through professional development, publications, research, and advocacy in active partnership with the government and non-government organizations.

NOTED will have its first ever National Tri-Level Conference of Teachers and Educators on Oct. 26-27 at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel, Manila. The theme of the conference is "Excellence and Education Tomorrow: A Commitment and a Responsibility Today." The effort to make all the awardees connect with each other can be seen as a huge step in their shared commitment to work for the improvement of the educational and teaching system in the country.

METROBANK Foundation chair Dr. George SK Ty (center) with the 2006 Search for Outstanding Teachers awardees (from left) Editha Banguilan, Ofelia Loñoza, Prof. Ruth Lebes-Gelvezon, Evelyn Kimpo, Isabel Eman, Gelly Alkuino, Olivia Caling, Dr. Raquel del Rosario-Fortun, Prof. Ambeth Ocampo, and Dr. Soledad Roguel.

'One could say the problem is not with the subject but the teacher,' Ocampo said in his essay. 'Sometimes, I think I became a teacher because I did not like the way I was taught'

Why art is a serious business



ART IS ONE OF THE BEST MEDIA TO EXPRESS AND bring out the culture of the nation, and goes hand in hand with the development of a society. But it can also be a tool to encourage the youth to become better citizens of their country as it gives them confidence to create powerful images that would be the toast of future generations.

Believing that there is so much talent in the Filipino that needs to be brought out, the Metrobank Foundation launched a program that cultivates culture and art appreciation while providing a venue that allows the advancement of the cultural heritage of the country.

In 1984, the Metrobank Foundation launched its annual painting competition, then known as the Young Painters Annual. This paved the way for painters to showcase their creativity and later became an event that young artists looked forward to every year. The competition also invited luminaries in the art scene to serve as judges; among them Napoleon Abueva, Arturo Luz, Dr. Jaime Laya, Benedicto Cabrera, and Impy Pilapil, to name a few. The competition has produced over 500 artists, 15 of which have already been recognized by the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

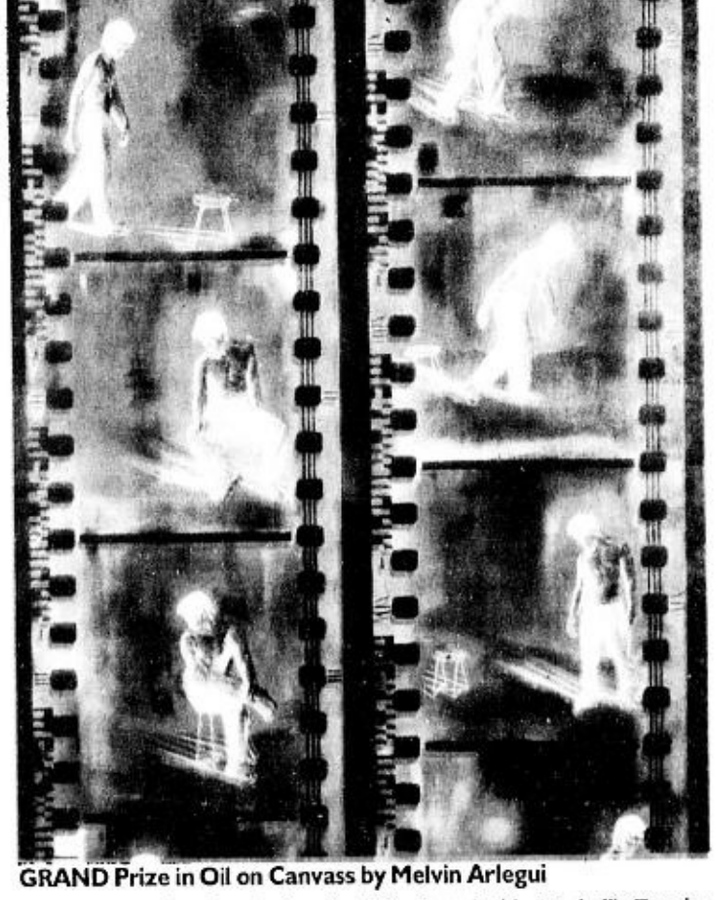
After two decades of meaningful and productive involvement in the visual arts, the Foundation expanded its role in the local art community. Through the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (MADE), the Foundation now gives honors to Filipinos who excel in other art forms: in sculpture, architecture, and interior design. MADE seeks to further heighten interest in these art forms and their relevance to cultural heritage and global competitiveness by bringing to fore a new generation of talented and world-class Filipino artists.

The Foundation's role in nurturing the artistic talents of the Filipino does not stop with these competitions. It also gives grants to winning artists so that they can support their first solo exhibit. Firm in the belief that nurturing culture into the hearts of the people plays a part in nation building, the Foundation generously supports educational programs such as workshops, lectures, fora, demonstrations, festivals, and art curriculum development that further promote arts in the country. To prove its commitment to this sector, it has also supported the programs of key art institutions like the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, National Museum, Museo Pambata, and the Art Association of the Philippines.

Through its various programs in the arts, the Metrobank Foundation hopes to enrich the cultural heritage of the Filipino people by enriching and preserving the rich artistry, and ensuring a lasting imprint in the country's art community. After all, honing the country's artistic wealth is indeed a serious business for the Metrobank Foundation.

This year's MADE winners for painting in oil-based medium on canvass are Melvin B. Arlegui, 1st place "The Throne of a Filipino"; Kirby N. Roxas, 2nd place "Decoding Ethnicity"; Marvin Chito L. Natural, 3rd place "Outgrown", and Nomar B. Miano, Grand Prize for painting on water media on paper. Kelly O. Sonio, gets the Grand Prize in sculpture for "Native Land" and Mervy C. Pueblo received a special citation for "Specimen". Jasmine O. Sy bags the Grand prize for interior design for "The Sustainable Haybol", Teresita "Tesa" Guevara receives the special for "Verde", and Michael T. Peña gets the grand prize in architecture for "Modern Filipino House."

Serving as an inspiration for the country's young artists and helping pave the way for Philippine sculpture to gain recognition in the national arts scene, Metrobank Foundation honors Peter T. De Guzman as this year's Metrobank Prize for Achievement and Sculpture (MPAS) grand prize winner.



GRAND Prize in Oil on Canvass by Melvin Arlegui

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Clean partnership

EDITORIAL

WE DOUBT THE WISDOM OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to tinker with one of her early executive orders (No. 12) creating the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission. Under Executive Order 531-A, the powers of the PAGC have been trimmed. The executive secretary is now authorized to overturn any of its rulings. The reason for this is that the coverage of the PAGC has been expanded under the same order. While it was initially empowered to go after government appointees suspected of misusing government funds, the order, as amended, now applies to "other public officers and employees and private persons in conspiracy or connivance with covered presidential appointees."

Why expand the coverage of the order, while making the executive secretary a kind of appeals tribunal? Accusations that the order will serve as a means to go after enemies of the administration, while affording the Palace a chance to absolve any allies caught in the PAGC dragnet can't be far behind. Is the policy to let the chips fall where they may—but allow Eduardo Ermita to let them fall selectively? That's too tempting a possibility to stack the odds.

We raise these questions because the administration has spent five years announcing anti-corruption drives that perpetually end up being sidetracked. We recall how, during his stint as presidential chief of staff, Rigoberto Tiglao tried to have all Statements of Assets and Liabilities of officials made available to the public. The effort didn't prosper due to challenges on the basis of privacy rights, not to mention the possibility that big fish would get caught along with the small fry.

Yesterday, Arvind Kejriwal received the Magsaysay Award for emerging leadership. Any reminder of President Ramon Magsaysay's magnificent obsession with fighting corruption is timely, but focusing on a fellow Asian who has achieved gains in fighting official wrongdoing in a similar setting is not just timely but necessary. Any effort to achieve clean government, if based solely on the enthusiasm of a chief executive for the task, is doomed to fail. For clean government to have a fighting chance, the rules have to make it easier for citizens to help keep government people honest. Lifestyle checks, for example, initially made waves and then petered out as the President prepared to seek election in 2004. The effort was tainted by accusations of being selectively undertaken and unfairly enforced. Most of all, it didn't harness the public's cooperation in the effort.

Kejriwal points to the Indian Freedom of Information Act as the linchpin of citizens' efforts to achieve cleaner government. As an official in the Indian Revenue Service (the equivalent of our Bureau of Internal Revenue), he was inspired to found the Parivartan (meaning "change") movement in 2000. The purpose of the movement was to fight the tendency of his fellow officials to extort bribes from the public for the delivery of basic services. He focused his efforts on helping the public understand that, by virtue of the law, officials were required to fulfill citizens' requests within a fixed period. Therefore, faster or slower performance—depending on the payment of bribes—was not only illegal, but made no sense.

The law's provisions on not only reporting, but making accessible, information, also enables Indian citizens to monitor and question government contracts. By means of the law and public hearings in which citizens interested in the performance of officials can ask questions (and be given facts), Kejriwal says the misappropriation of funds can be more easily exposed.

Philippine efforts at fighting corruption often falter when officials run out of steam, or face the hostility of their colleagues. They also fail when the citizenry merely sits back and expects government to clean up its own mess. Kejriwal says it is better not to promote an atmosphere of hostility, or miracle cures to corruption, but instead more fully integrate the citizenry into both the decision-making and audit and evaluation processes.

President Arroyo would do well to devote her energies not to fiddling around with executive issuances but to proposing legislation based on the Indian model for Congress to enact.

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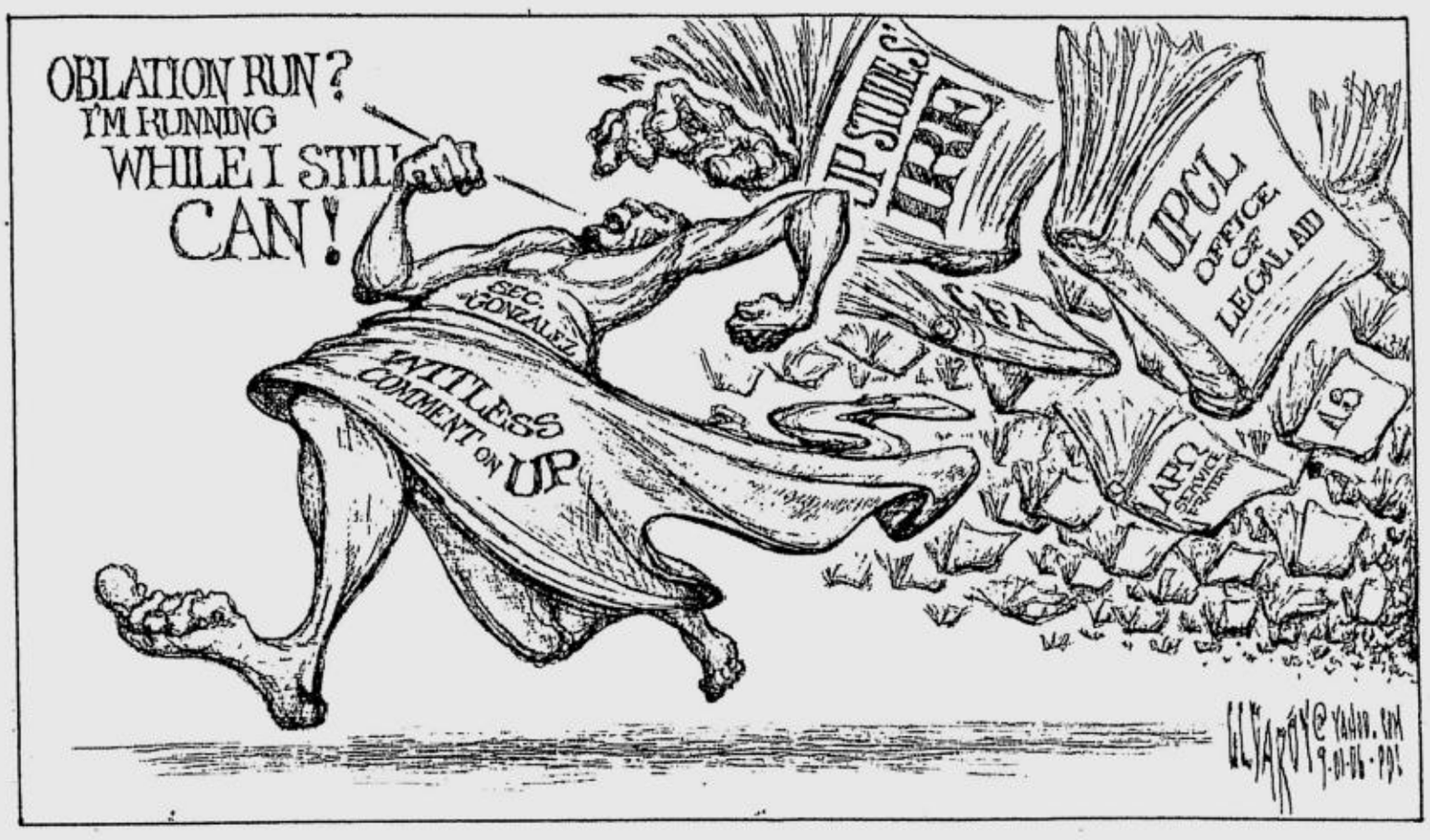


Ban on Erap docu whets public's curiosity

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I HAVE SEEN THE DOCUMENTARY ON THE life of President Estrada, "Ang Mabuhay Para sa Masa" (To Live for the Masses), and I think the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) was too *sipsip* in banning its airing on television. The late former Press Secretary Gregorio Cendana was in the first review committee and he told me at the Kapihan sa Manila a few days before he died that he did not agree with the X-rating given by the committee and suggested a second review. Cendana died before the second review.

When I quipped, "*Baka sipsip naman 'yung iba,*" Cendana replied, "I think they're more afraid GMA would get angry and that Malacañang can always reverse our decision anyway, so they voted to ban it *na para hindi mapagalitan.*"

"Was there any pressure or suggestion to you or the others to ban it?" I asked him.

"*Sa akin wala.* I don't know about the others," he replied.

If what Cendana revealed is correct, I think the decision of the censors was too cowardly because the documentary is not so dangerous as to (quoting from the MTRCB's memorandum) "threaten the political stability of the state; undermine the faith and confidence of the people in the government; (be) libelous and defamatory; and (pertains) to matters that are sub judice in nature."

I think the X-rating given to the documentary is a violation of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression. I agree with film critic Mario Hernando, a censor who dissented from the majority opinion in the second review committee, that they are making too much fuss over it. "The track record of the Arroyo government cannot be erased by just one documentary," he said

There is nothing in there that is not already public knowledge. They have been said in many public statements by Erap and in his testimony before the Sandiganbayan, all duly reported by media. That nullifies the fear of libel and defamation. And if those public statements and testimony did not destabilize the Arroyo government, I don't think this documentary based on them will destabilize it either.

What is destabilizing the government is GMA herself, because she refuses to answer the accusations against her squarely and refute them one by one with evidence. Instead, she dodges the charges and uses her political allies as human shields and resorts to technicalities to evade the issues. If instead of railroading the impeachment complaint out of Congress she had convincingly defended herself, the government would be on stable footing now and we would have shown the world that democracy works in the Philippines.

As for the documentary undermining the faith and confidence of the people in the government, those have long been washed away—not only undermined—by GMA herself, by what she has done and is still doing.

The documentary faithfully retells the life of Erap: his roots, his parents, his birth, his years as a highly successful movie actor, his four terms as mayor of San Juan; his stints as senator, as Vice President and ultimately as President. And of course, the charges of plunder against him, the most important part of his life. No doubt this was what got the documentary banned.

He defends himself against this accusation. As I said earlier, Erap had repeatedly said these in public, in press releases and in his testimony before the Sandiganbayan, so there is nothing new there.

He said there was a conspiracy among the elite of Philippine society—the politicians, the military, the big businessmen, the clergy and civil society—to grab the presidency from him because he is not one of them and is "only a movie actor who came from the masses."

He said he has not stolen a single centavo of government money; that after he was ousted by GMA, his administration was subjected to a thorough audit but they did not find anything wrong; that none of his Cabinet members has been charged with graft and corruption, unlike other officials under the presidents who came before and after him.

We have heard these many times. They are factual, they have not destabilized the government and we don't have to be afraid of them. The narration is supported by clippings from newspapers and from television footage. In other words, already part of the public record. Only the most rabid partisans will think that this documentary would unseat the President from Malacañang. Hence, I think the ban is unfair and useless.

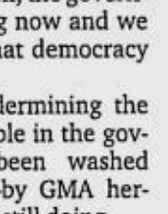
In the first place, the publicity on its banning will only whet the appetite of the public, as always happens. Instead of dismissing it as just propaganda, people will now want to watch it. They will talk about it and all that free publicity will only make it a blockbuster.

And the MTRCB cannot effectively ban it anyway, because enterprising people will make DVD copies. Already, pirated copies are being circulated. What would have been largely ignored is now selling like hot cakes. So, instead of protecting the President as the MTRCB intended, the ban has boomeranged against her.

Ironically, the same mistake was made by GMA's father, President Diosdado Macapagal, when he was running for reelection. The opposition presidential candidate Ferdinand Marcos had made a movie about himself and Imelda with the bombastic title "Iginuhit ng Tadhana," starring Gloria Romero and Luis Gonzales, then the most popular movie stars. Scared of the expected popularity of the movie, Macapagal had the Board of Censors ban it. The public was outraged and the censors were forced to lift the ban. Macapagal was defeated by Marcos in the election that followed.

Finding soul in the study of law

PASSION FOR REASON



Raul C. Pangalangan

FOR THE NEXT FOUR SUNDAYS, A RECORD-breaking 6,367 aspiring lawyers will take the bar examination at the De La Salle University along Taft Avenue, the final step in the long journey to earn the right to carry the sometimes inglorious title "Atty."

When I served as bar examiner in Political Law and Public International Law a decade and a half ago, one examinee wrote this plea on the last page of his bluebook: "Dear Examiner, please pass me. This is my nth attempt to become a lawyer, and all I want is when I die, the title 'Atty.' will be on my tombstone." I could have disqualified him on the spot for turning in a "marked" booklet, but that would have abruptly killed his dream or even hastened the preparation of his tombstone (sans the title, which should be of no use in heaven, but maybe that's why he is still welcome there!).

The Supreme Court administers the exam, and this year it appointed Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez to chair the committee of examiners. That means that she will handpick the eight legal experts who will design the exam questions, and also choose the final list of questions to be asked. Gutierrez was the *ponente* in the Court's landmark decision on Randolf David v. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, chastising the warrantless arrests and the threats to free speech under GMA's "state of national emergency."

Sandoval-Gutierrez conducts the 2006 bar exam under the shadow of the recent nursing board leakage. As of today, the Professional Regulation Commission has ruled out a retake in favor of a creative recount. The tainted portions of the nursing board were recomputed: they gave no credit to answers to the purloined questions, and those "points" or credits were simply reapportioned to the remaining portion of the exam. For instance, in Test V (Psychiatric Nursing), 90 out of 100 questions were nullified, and only the scores in the remaining 10 were counted.

But note this: The PRC actually invokes a precedent laid down by the Supreme Court in the 2002 bar exam. Apprised of a massive leakage of almost all the questions in Commercial Law (which was downloaded from the examiner's office computer network by a young lawyer, an FEU alumnus who shared it with his fraternity brothers, including those in MLQU), the Court initially ordered a retake, and then softened up, and merely invalidated the tainted subject and distributed the weight to the remaining seven subjects. The Court thus took the path of Oprah Winfrey, and effectively told the examinees: "I feel your pain."

Soon after, the Court formed a study group to reform the exams, which concluded that the bar exams had actually retarded legal education. "[P]aradoxically, the very existence of the [bar] examination has stymied in a significant manner legal education. Many if not most law schools have made of passing the Bar Examination the principal, or even sole objective of legal education. This has without doubt impoverished legal education ...."

I have taught law since I took the attorney's oath in 1984, and I confirm that the fetish for the bar exam has immiserized not just the mind but the spirit. I call for the restoration of soul in the study of the law.

That is actually bad advice to any law student who simply wants to excel at the De La Salle showdown. Why read judicial decisions as battles between competing notions of what is good, when instead all that is required is just a plain case digest summarizing the ruling, neat, pithy and nice? Why seek out eternal truths in concrete cases, ephemeral and imperfect? Why agonize over philosophical dilemmas, when the game is just to pass the darned exams?

Even the so-called Socratic method, the question-and-answer exercise that is the daily staple in law school classrooms, has been reduced to its "policing" function, that is, a way for us professors to check if the student actually did his homework and read up on his casebooks. Leading American law schools have largely abandoned the pedagogical style as neither Socratic or methodical, yet we continue to idealize it out here in the boonies.

But there are specific causes for the uniquely Pinoy version of the Socratic. If law schools are judged on the basis of the bar exams, the schools are under immense pressure to winnow out the unfit, even if in the process they filter out the soulful students who "play their own kind of music, sing their own kinds of songs." They could have made good, even happier, lawyers, mind you.

Moreover, the flipside of the professor's "policing" function is the students' "boot camp" mind-set. There is actually a lot of macho preening going on, an urge to prove oneself against standards, however unpredictable and meaningless. This Darwinian concern for survival fosters a moral indifference, a tendency to see legal training as more about "*abilidad*" than soul.

Oliver Wendell Holmes lamented "that most hateful of American words and ideals, 'smartness,' as against the dignity of moral feeling and profundity of knowledge." Duncan Kennedy complained that law schools merely produced a "pecking order of smart alecks." Holmes concluded: "The aim of the law school is not to make men smart, but to make them wise in their calling." It is an ideal that must be defended, says Benjamin Cardozo, against "the assaults of opportunism, the expediency of the passing hour ... the derision of those who have no patience with general principles."

To our gladiators at the Taft Avenue colosseo, remember the call: "Strength and honor. At the signal, unleash hell. What we do in life echoes in eternity." This time, especially, remember the part about "honor." It echoes a bit more loudly in eternity.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Clearance to kill

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

NOTHING CAN BE MORE SELF-DELUDING THAN the hope that the retirement of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as commander of the 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon would end the military's reign of terror in that region or, foreshadow the softening of the government's mailed-fist anti-communist campaign.

Palparan, who has been the Army's Central Luzon commander for only 11 months, will be replaced by Brig. Gen. Juanito Gomez, recently (on June 29) appointed chief of the National Capital Region Command, after a tour of duty as commander of the 302nd Brigade in Bohol. Gomez is reputed to have undertaken a counterinsurgency approach in Bohol based on "winning hearts and minds" that is claimed to have boosted tourism in that province.

The defense department has presented the replacement as a sign of a softer counterinsurgency campaign, contrasting the hard-line of Palparan, who has been tagged by human rights groups as a "butcher" in the context of the rampant extrajudicial executions of noncombatant leftists in Palparan's previous commands in Samar and Mindoro.

The replacement "is a fresh approach," said Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. "General Gomez and our soldiers in Bohol became like tourism promoters. This is the image that we want to show the public. Bohol's success story should be the approach. That is the total government approach."

Gomez, however, did not offer much hope of a change with the statement that he would continue Palparan's *cedula* campaign, though not as aggressively. He said, "I'm a broad-minded person and in fact I'm trying to reach out to people in such a way that they will understand us, that we can understand each other so we can avoid fighting. We will not do house-to-house checks."

The defense department is apparently building up Gomez as a contrast to Palparan, in an attempt to show to the public the administration is now sheathing its spiked fist with velvet gloves in its counterinsurgency campaign. But the government has not repudiated Palparan's harsh methods. For the past two months, the government has been sending out signals that it is determined to stop the wave of extrajudicial executions of at least 247 (noncombatant) leftists and 27 journalists since 2001, with the murders being blamed on death squads with ties to the military and on what Amnesty International has called the "climate of impunity" that has emboldened the killers to commit murder without fear of state retribution.

The government has come under strong criticism from international human rights organizations and a number of foreign governments for its failure to halt the wave of killings. So far, its response has been largely cosmetic. Last July, President Macapagal-Arroyo condemned the murders "in the strongest possible terms." Then she ordered law enforcement agencies to solve at least 10 killings in as many weeks and formed an inquiry commission, headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, to get to the bottom of the murders. She has given the commission "full powers" to investigate.

What to do with Palparan after his retirement is the first test of the Melo Commission if it wants to prove that it is not a whitewash body. Ahead of his retirement, Palparan has unleashed a wave of searches of homes and persons in the hunt for communist guerrillas. These searches triggered a stampede of people to get their residence certificates to prove they are not communists or communist sympathizers. INQUIRER correspondents in Central Luzon have reported an atmosphere of terror caused by these searches. One report said Palparan had given orders to his men that civilians found giving shelter to rebels would be shot. "My order to my soldiers is that if they are certain that there are armed rebels in a house or yard, shoot them. It will just be too bad if civilians are killed in the process. We are sorry if you are killed in the crossfire."

Palparan has not been formally charged for being directly responsible for the extralegal killings in his areas of responsibility. In a recent press conference, he said he had no regrets about being called a "butcher." The tag, he said, "is just in the minds of the people ... That does not bother me."

He said that the President's order for an all-out war meant "doing everything within all available means and within the law to get rid of insurgency."

Palparan did not take responsibility for the killings. He said, "I'm responsible, maybe, relatively perhaps. But as to my direct responsibility and even to my men, I have always said I could face any investigation."

From his statements, it seems clear that Palparan has given a liberal interpretation to the President's declaration of "all-out" war on the insurgency and in ordering security forces to end the insurgency before the end of her term. The President's statement was vague enough to allow commanders to make their own interpretation in the execution of the policy. It was never specified in the declaration that the military limit its action to combatants.

With this ambiguity, it is easy for any commander to take any action, legal or illegal, to achieve the objective of crushing the insurgency during her presidency. Within this framework, the military and police commanders have been given a wide discretionary latitude as to the means of implementing the policy. The effect of this blank check given to commanders, like Palparan, may be seen in the results. Most of the victims in this purge are leftists belonging to legal communist organizations. Unfortunately, anonymous death squads also took this ambiguity as clearance to kill, without fear of punishment.

Secrets in a drawer

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SECRETS CAN BE EXCITING, PROVOCATIVE, INteresting and of inestimable value to our sense of self and autonomy. Who doesn't have secrets? And who hasn't enjoyed the thrill of knowing something that nobody else knows, of keeping hidden from the rest of the world a fact, event, person, place or item that only you know of, that only you have the power to reveal? Secrets are empowering.

But secrets can also be corrosive, lying buried in the depths of one's consciousness and conscience, they can eat away at our sense of comfort and complacency. Who hasn't struggled with the dilemma of revealing or concealing, sharing or keeping hidden a secret? Especially when knowing about a secret can help others, can help explain complex personalities and situations, can erase misconceptions and clear up conflicts? Secrets can be destructive.

Strolling along a corridor at the Faculty Center of the University of the Philippines, one comes upon three wooden bureaus with drawers and a booth with curtains. The installation is called "Family Secrets," an art project by Yoshiko Shimada that runs until today. Viewers are encouraged to pull open the drawers in which lie prints bearing art works illustrating a particular secret shared by people Shimada had talked with and gathered during earlier exhibitions in Japan and Korea.

Exhibit-goers are likewise encouraged to write down their own "family secrets" inside the curtained booth and place these in a locked box, which Shimada checks daily, collecting the secrets on which she will then base new artworks, then exchanging them with the old secrets in the drawers.

All those who've responded to Shimada's invitation are assured that their privacy will be respected and protected. They don't even need to put their real names or any identifying details in their accounts.

* * *

AND it's a good thing, too, because some of the secrets are disturbing, shocking, sad and unnerving. Opening the drawers one after the other, reading their incendiary contents, one is repulsed and yet inexplicably drawn to them, torn between slamming each drawer shut or reading on to feast on the fascinating tales.

One exhibit-goer confided that when she was still a child, her grandfather had approached her from behind and put his hand inside her night clothes. She was afraid at first, but then discovered that she enjoyed the experience, which would be repeated several times in the future. As an adult, she drew upon the memories as a secret pleasure, though she did wonder why her grandfather had done those things to her. She told her boyfriend about her grandfather and once, while they were making love, her boyfriend told her to call him "grandpa." She resisted at first, but for some reason, she, too found the suggestion provocative. "I called him 'grandpa' and he grew harder," is how she concludes her "secret."

Another drawer reveals a girl's confession that her father once killed a child in an accident but got away with it. But the memory of his deed haunted him the rest of his life.

In another drawer, a young woman confesses that she and her sister are lesbians, but have kept their sexual orientation a secret from their families, even if they are both in long-term relationships.

* * *

YOSHIKO Shimada, according to background materials, is a highly regarded artist from Japan, whose video and photo-based works revolve around the themes of "women, violence, nationalism and representation of memories."

She is in the country with the support of the Nippon Foundation Asian Public Intellectuals Fellowship (API), and will repeat the "Family Secrets" project in Thailand and Indonesia.

"Through this project," Shimada states, "I'd like to share these voices of various parts of the region so that we can rethink our existing, official identity from different points of view. This project can also be a forum in which we come to understand differences but also see the common ground among individuals and cultures. There is an old feminist adage that 'The Personal is the Political,' which I think is still relevant in this region. I think that through close examination and communication of the personal, we can better see the changing identities of our society."

How much do our secrets define our personalities and determine our personal histories? And do the weight and enormity, the repulsive power or the banality of a secret depend on culture and background—of the keeper of the secret and the voyeur?

* * *

I THOUGHT it was a master touch for Shimada to place the secrets and their accompanying artwork inside cabinet drawers, requiring the "complicity" of the viewer who must first pull open each drawer to access the "most intimate and hidden part" of strangers' lives.

It is this required action that draws even the most casual stroller into Shimada's art project. We become not just mildly curious art lovers, gazing at paintings or sculpture, but rather participants in the unveiling and appreciation of strangers' deepest, darkest and perhaps most dangerous stories.

"Family Secrets" tells as much about the viewer/voyeur as it does about the secret-keeper. What interests us, what repels us, what fascinates, what nauseates—tells us perhaps what it is we hold most valuable, most dear, or most private.

As a journalist, I had heard many such stories as those that lie buried in Shimada's wooden drawers. Approaching the first drawer, I was steeling myself for mildly interesting and perhaps tantalizing stories. But I wasn't prepared for the intimate and starkly simple telling, and the feelings they provoked, as well as the contradictory urges to stop opening the drawers and walk away, or to open one more drawer, discover one more secret. Guess which impulse won.

Money from vice

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO read Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" to the bitter end will find a short but engaging epilogue that not only wraps up the novel, but also tells us what happened to the main characters. I usually mine this chapter for test questions, because the students who rely on the *komiks* version or the high school textbooks with chapter summaries will miss the details in the actual book.

Santiago de los Santos throws a party in the opening chapter. He is a rich, ostentatious, jolly and rather funny character, but when we get to the end, he is a broken, lonely and almost forgotten man, lying about on Santo Cristo Street, Binondo, when he is not inside a nearby establishment located some streets away and marked with a big red sign that reads, "*Fumadero publico de anfion*" (Public opium smoking den).

Opium was big business in the late 19th century, in the same way that dangerous drugs are in our time. The only difference is that opium was regulated, and opium dens were allowed to operate to generate revenue for the government and contain the menace to public health. In principle, these opium dens were only for Chinese, but in practice everyone else joined the fun.

Aside from the "Noli," the only visible trace of the opium dens of long ago is a little-known street called "Fumadores" that most people will probably translate literally as "Smokers." This refers to those seedy opium dens. With ordinances today prohibiting smoking in enclosed public areas, Fumaderos is understood in the contemporary sense of tobacco smoking. Thus, the street name evokes romantic, sepia-toned images of the *cigareras,* women deftly rolling cured leaf tobacco into the once famous Manila Cigars. Since most of the pre-war cigar and cigarette factories were concentrated in Binondo, we associate smoking with tobacco rather than opium. Let's just hope that the City of Manila has not changed this street name to honor some obscure and undeserving person. There is a lot of history in street names lost as permanently as tearing down a heritage structure.

The issue of opium was a double-edged sword, a public menace tolerated for revenue. One could probably say the same of gambling, too. On Nov. 20, 1898, Emilio Aguinaldo signed a decree authorizing the limited and contained use of opium in Binondo and Catanduanes and Bicol. One can only guess who drafted this decree and got it signed. One wonders what Apolinario Mabini thought, but the text of the decree is telling. It opens:

"The service of leasing opium-smoking establishments being in a state of neglect on account of the state of war in which this territory found itself, but which is now under a form of government, it is urgently necessary to reestablish same for the double purpose of restricting it as far as possible on account of the harm it causes hygiene and public health. With the concurrence of the treasury department, I hereby order the following:"

(While the aim is supposed to be the preservation of public health, the decree is issued with the concurrence only of the treasury department, not the health and sanitation department which probably lobbied or advised that the use of opium be confined to specific areas and gave the concession to three Chinese.)

"1st. Provisionally and until this government shall have awarded definitely at public auction the lease of aforesaid service, which shall be effected shortly, after the proper proceedings which the case requires, the same is awarded to the Chinese: Francisco Bonifacio, Nubla Lim Chico, and Felipe Lim, residents of the district of Binondo, Manila, for a term of one month extendible."

How were these three men identified in the absence of public auction for the concession? The thought alone that the operation of an opium den was approved by the government seems strange to us today. If we follow the same logic, then we might as well do the same for prostitution: Limit the area of operation, safeguard public health and earn revenue from it. Opium must have been so lucrative that the tax or license fees were quite high.

"2nd. The same department shall authorize a provisional contract with aforesaid Chinese at the rate of one thousand two hundred pesos per month, limiting same to the provinces of Albay and Sorsogon, and the District of Catanduanes."

In order to pay this monthly fee, the operators surely made much, much more to break even and make a profit. Then as now there was the problem of the police, military and local officials wanting a share of the loot, so these concessions came with appropriate legal protection:

"3rd. A copy of this decree shall be forwarded to the military and provincial chiefs of the provinces mentioned.

"I have the pleasure of referring the same to you for your information; you will immediately make the award to the Chinese contractors aforementioned and report to this office the date when it is effected; furthermore, you will please order the local chiefs of your jurisdiction to publish this by posters in the local dialect and acknowledge receipt of the same."

Reading the document not only tells us what the decree was all about but gives us an idea of the mind-set and pragmatic values of the Aguinaldo government.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Dog days, 'ber' months

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE "BER" MONTHS HAVE FINALLY STARTED, AND FOR many Filipinos, that means, jingle bells, jingle bells, Christmas is around the corner!

I'd like to do a different take though to the "ber" months. We greet them with cheer maybe because we sense the rainy season slowly coming to an end. Sure, we anticipate more typhoons, including super-duper ones, but we sense relief is coming. September, too, comes on the heels of the very difficult, if not strange, month of August.

From March to May, we go through oppressive heat, so we welcome June, made cooler by the monsoon rains. Then August comes along, the rains pounding away even as the heat seems to return, this time with a vengeance.

We associate August with dangerous vapors that emanate when the rains hit the warm earth, causing all kinds of ailments from skin diseases to diarrhea. It's a month that seems almost unnatural, full of omens and dangers. Our collective memories grope to the distant past of earthquakes and volcano eruptions in August. Suddenly, August takes on sinister qualities, what with memories of the Plaza Miranda bombing in 1972 and the Ninoy Aquino assassination in 1983, both occurring on Aug. 21.

As a Filipino-Chinese, I've always had a kind of doubly hexed way of looking at the month. August often coincides with the seventh lunar month, owned, older people say, by the hungry ghosts. The underworld supposedly opens its gates and lets the ghosts roam the world. These are the ones neglected by the living, and, let loose, they seem to be able to wreak great havoc, causing disasters and wars and, well, just getting people darn crazy.

I was out of the country part of August and came home to what I felt was particularly muggy hot weather: Homes with a stuffy smell, moldy belts and bags, pets burdened with more fleas and ticks than usual.

It didn't help when my parents told me this is one of those years where the Chinese add another month to the calendar. The Chinese take all this quite seriously, reluctant to start any new venture, whether a business or a marriage, until the hungry ghosts return to the underworld. Why, I asked, do they have to add another seventh month? Does that mean another month of hungry ghosts?

Dog day afternoon

There's really a reason for the kind of weather we see. For countries north of the equator, these are summer months, even if we think of August as a rainy one. The particularly hot days are those when the planet's tilted toward the sun to take in more heat.

The Romans called these *caniculares dies* (days of the dog), attributing the heat to Sirius, the Dog Star, shining a bit too brightly. The term still survives in the Spanish *la canicula* and in English as dog days.

At best, the dog days are seen as languid, lazy days. I remember living in Texas and seeing poorer families sitting out in the porch, looking quite glum and unwilling to do anything. Sometimes, though, especially during very warm dog nights, I wondered too if people weren't being consumed less by melancholy than by torrid desires brought by the sultry summer.

Balmy sweltering summers do seem to incite people to do crazy things. Remember the movie "Dog Day Afternoon"? That was based on a true story about John Wojtowicz who held up a Brooklyn bank on Aug. 22, 1972 (look at that date!) to raise money so his transsexual lover, Ernest Aron, could get a sex-change operation. The botched robbery turned into a hostage drama, partly comic with all the different characters, including the transsexual lover, popping up at the bank.

Reframing

Dog days do carry over into September, and with it, our fears and anxieties. Men do crazy things even in September—look at when martial law was declared. It doesn't help that we live today with another President who believes in destiny and divine mandates to greatness.

But hey, let's snap out of this national depression. Let's use the month to do a bit of what psychologists call "cognitive restructuring." In lay terms, that means learning to look at the same reality with a different frame, with a different lens.

August need not be a month of dire omens and ghosts and malevolent vapors. If the weather's inhospitable, look at it as a challenge for you to renew friendships. Find a copy of "Dog Day Afternoon" and invite friends over to watch, and impress them with your knowledge of the true story's ending: Wojtowicz was eventually sentenced to 20 years, but served only 7. He did make money from the film's rights, giving $2,500 to Ernest Aron, who did get his operation and eventually became Elizabeth Debbie Eden.

Better than videos, take up nature's challenge in your backyard. Instead of despairing with the overgrowth of plants, marvel at what nature can do. The monsoon rains and August's heat seem to set off a botanical alchemy: Ferns and mushrooms appear from nowhere, wild rhizomes sprout tropical lilies, vines suddenly yield flowers and fruits you didn't know you had.

The other day, I asked my mother's gardener to identify a particularly tenacious vine, wondering what exotic flower was waiting to bloom. "*Ube*," he replied curtly, quickly adding on to the day's lesson in ecology, "*Galing sa ibon.*" The birds do a good job of spreading plants around.

And that's what you could do as well to overcome August's angsts: Look for birds, better still, entice them to come out—even bread crumbs can be a feast.

It's a good time to plant, although you should avoid those that are prone to being water-logged. Imported herbs like lavender and rosemary and mint die easily during the rainy season, while tropical ones like mayana and oregano (the native version) and *damong* maria quickly colonize your garden with the rains.

Choose some corner to create a garden with one family of plants. I've started a ginger garden, what with the many versions that yield cooking spices as well as ornamental flowers. Besides the common *luya*, look for *dilaw* (Curcuma) varieties, *galangal* (for Thai tom yum), torch gingers (for Singaporean *laksa*). Where to get the rhizomes? The vegetable vendors at Farmers' will tell you.

I started the ginger garden for Yna, hoping that when she's older she'll garden too and, seeing the gingers, will remember I planted them for her with magic incantations: "Like ginger, may Yna add flavor, add spice to people's lives, but never with hurtful *maanghang* speech."

And the ghosts? The other day she came running out of a room screaming, "*Multo! Multo! Multo!*" Ah, but little Yna's a wise old soul, laughing her way through as she rushed into my arms. To be sure though, I told her, "You know better right? There are no *multo*, no hungry ghosts."

When she's older, I'll tell her about the human ghouls we need to worry about, notwithstanding dog days and "ber" months.

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Guimarasnon vows to remain sweet

I WILL FOREVER BE PROUD OF being a Guimarasnon. More than the sweetest mangoes in the world and the most pristine beaches, more than the rich marine resources and endangered species, like the turtles and the dugong, I take pride in the warm and resilient people of Guimaras. I have always dreamt of letting the whole world know of my beautiful home province. I have always dreamt of reading about it in the headlines of newspapers and seeing it featured on TV. I never thought that this dream would turn into a nightmare.

Yes, finally, we are in the news. In fact, we are the news these days. We finally have secured a place in the history of this country—as the principal victims of the worst oil spill in the country.

I cried when I heard the news. I am not sure if I cried because of the oil spill and its effects, or if I cried because of how almost everyone reacted to it. There was silence mainly. And most of the few voices raised about the oil spill only worried about the possibility of the spill reaching Boracay, totally unconcerned with the tragedy that had already struck Guimaras.

It's sad to know that our Coast Guard does not have the facilities to respond to this kind of emergency. It's sad to know that it would take more than a week for our national government to respond, and only to say this is more than we can handle. It's sad to know that this oil spill is partly caused by an incompetent ship captain—causing damage to an island where some people are successful seafarers abroad. And it is sad to hear Petron say that technically it is the responsibility of the company that owned the ship to clean up the mess. It sounds as if it is now the people of Guimaras who owe Petron for helping in the cleanup effort, for trying to mitigate the dire consequences of its negligence.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

But the saddest story of all, after weeks of publicity, is that the world will just forget the story of Guimaras. Then we, Filipinos, will also forget whatever lessons we have learned from this tragedy—despite the very high price we're paying here. Will the people of Guimaras get justice? Will Congress pass a law to ensure that oil spills of this magnitude never happen again? The future is darker than the oil washing on the shores of our island.

The only thing that is certain is that the affected communities will definitely suffer for years—from lost livelihood, from health and many more problems.

We are a happy people despite being in a poor province. Our roads get paved one kilometer every election year, if we're lucky. We have barangays that don't have budgets or health and day care centers or access to other social services. We have seen our lands and beach resorts sold to foreigners. But we will always have hope, and we will remain to be just like our mangoes—the sweetest in the world.

—FROILAN GRATE, froilan@greenminds.net

The opposite of 'well-behaved'

RAUL GONZALEZ IS PATHETIC.

I'm saying this in reaction to the news report titled "Gonzalez: UP breeds destabilizers, naked runners." (PDI, 8/27/06) He said that "this was not the way (UP) students should repay the government for giving them a world-class education."

But UP students are beholden not to the government but to the people. It is the people who are sending us, UP students, to school and it only behooves us to be at the forefront of people's struggles. The University of the Philippines is after all, the University of the People.

And under the regime of (fake) President Macapagal-Arroyo, the people have been suffering from social inequity and injustice. This is not the way government officials should repay the Filipino people for giving them money that they do not really deserve.

But then, Gonzalez obviously does not know what "well-behaved" means. Being well-behaved is actually the opposite of how he has been acting. He should not be in the government.

—KAREN LAPITAN, head, Education and Research Committee, Center for Nationalist Studies, University of the Philippines Los Baños

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A calamity of governance

I NEED A PASSPORT TO TRAVEL OUT OF this country. I need a license to drive. My car must be registered so I can use it. If I tried to do any of these without these documents, I could get into trouble. How then does a tanker, fully laden with a hazardous cargo like fuel oil, receive clearance to leave port, in uncertain weather, when both its registration and the license of its captain have lapsed?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

The Solar oil spill is an environmental tragedy. The President says we now face a national calamity. She is right. The question is: Is this calamity environmental? Or, at its very base, is this really a calamity of governance?

The Philippine Coast Guard and the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) are the government agencies tasked to regulate ports and shipping. Among other things, they serve as a check-and-balance mechanism to ensure that laws are complied with and enforced. Ultimately, all these laws are crafted to serve and protect the nation and the millions of taxpayers who fund these agencies. When Solar I was given clearance to leave Bataan, were our laws followed? And whose interests were served?

These thoughts disturb me. They make me wonder what the phrase "public service" means to us, both the governors and the governed. They make me wonder about the trillion pesos our lawmakers have budgeted to run our ship of state. They make me wonder about the many cases of graft and corruption that have been filed, but more than that, the many more that may never be discovered, filed and driven to a just conclusion. They make me think about those thousands of vehicles with red plates, emblazoned with the words "For Official Use Only" that many of us know are used for personal convenience, by "officials."

I think about the millions of Filipinos who pay taxes for virtually every commodity they buy—from noodles, to cigarettes, to diesel fuel, to gin, to canned sardines—and still do not get the quality product they are paying for. And I wonder about the 25 million Filipinos who live on less than P100 per day.

We face a national calamity, no doubt. But all this goes way beyond Guimaras and the Visayan seas. It is not merely environmental, it is systemic.—**Lorenzo Tan (via e-mail)**

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 1, 2006
21st Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Cor 1:17-25
Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "This story throws light on what will happen in the kingdom of heaven. Ten bridesmaids went out with their lamps to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were careless while the others were sensible.

The careless bridesmaids took their lamps as they were and did not bring extra oil. But those who were sensible, brought with their lamps flasks of oil. As the bridegroom delayed, they all grew drowsy and fell asleep.

But at midnight, a cry rang out: 'The bridegroom is here, come out and meet him!' All the maidens woke up at once and trimmed their lamps. Then the careless ones said to the sensible ones: 'Give us some oil, for our lamps are going out.' The sensible ones answered: 'There may not be enough for both you and us. You had better go to those who sell and buy for yourselves.'

They were out buying oil when the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him to the wedding feast, and the doors were shut.

Later the rest of the bridesmaids arrived and called out: 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But he answered: 'Truly, I do not know you.'

So, stay awake, for you do not know the day nor the hour."

Commentary

The gospel is preached with focus on the cross, though it appears to be complete absurdity to those who do not believe. This is wisdom for God. To save us through obedience even unto death on the cross and the crucified is the only wisdom we must study and imitate. It seems often in this year B, that it is one long continuous call to conversion, a long Lent. But it is the core of baptism and the gospel. Now we get to decide if we're wise or foolish. Do we have oil (Scripture/Spirit) in our lamps or are they empty? Does God know us or are we going to be left outside the door?

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Nueva Vizcaya cop chief, 2 other officers sacked over 'jueteng'

By Alcuin Papa

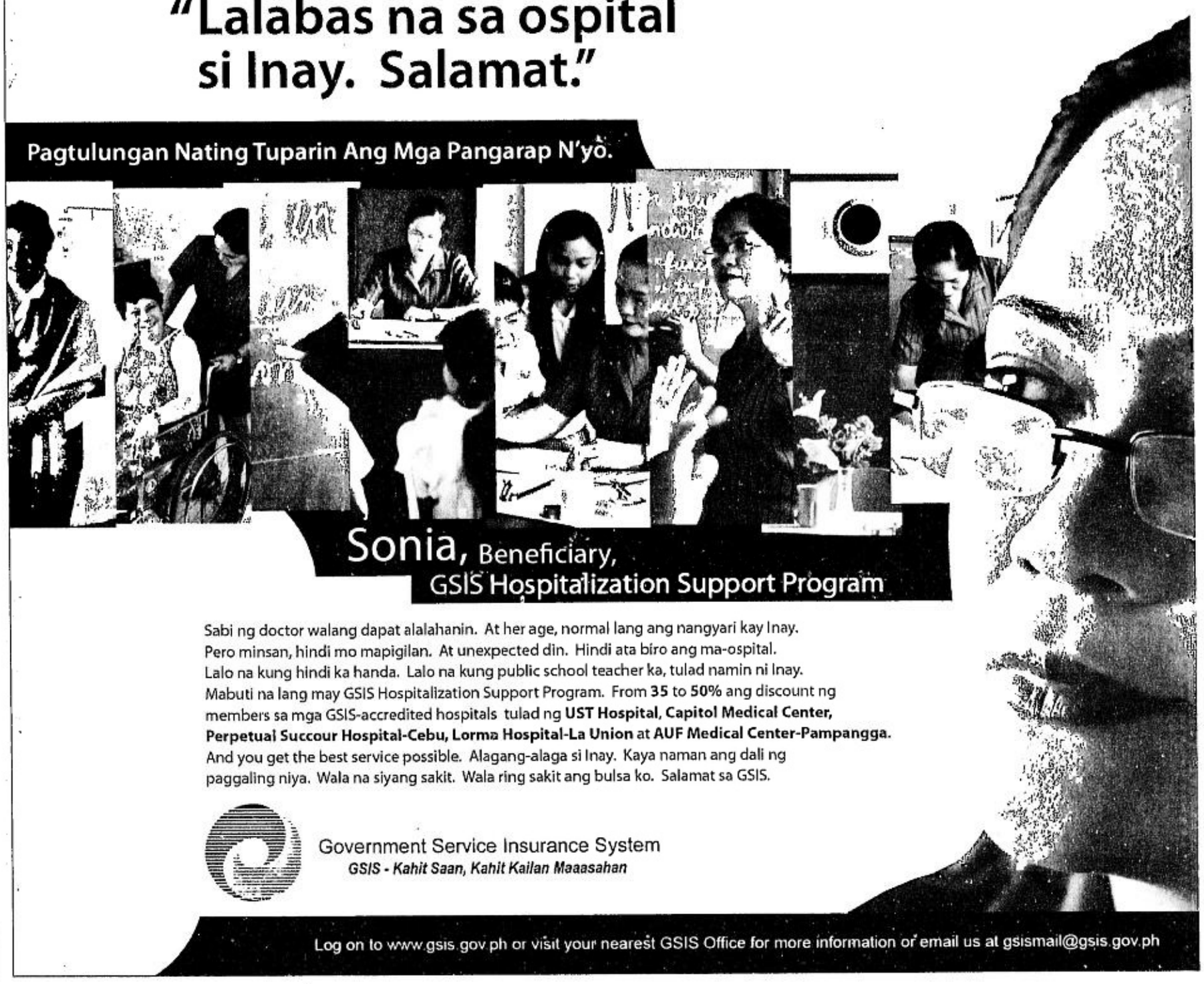
THE POLICE CHIEF OF NUEVA VIZcaya and two other ranking officers in the province were relieved from their posts yesterday for failure to stop the illegal numbers game "jueteng" in the province.

Philippine National Police (PNP) spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao identified the officers as acting provincial director Senior Supt. Rogelio Damazo, provincial intelligence officer Supt. Agripino Lopez Jr., and Solano town police chief Supt. Dionisio de Guzman.

Pagdilao explained that the three were actually relieved early this week.

Also earlier, PNP Director General Oscar Calderon issued a warning to all police commanders in the provinces to strictly enforce anti-jueteng operations or be sacked.

"Lalabas na sa ospital si Inay. Salamat."



Sabi ng doctor walang dapat alalahanin. At her age, normal lang ang nangyari kay Inay. Pero minsan, hindi mo mapigilan. At unexpected din. Hindi ata biro ang ma-ospital. Lalo na kung hindi ka handa. Lalo na kung public school teacher ka, tulad namin ni Inay. Mabuti na lang may GSIS Hospitalization Support Program. From **35** to **50%** ang discount ng members sa mga GSIS-accredited hospitals tulad ng **UST Hospital, Capitol Medical Center, Perpetual Succour Hospital-Cebu, Lorma Hospital-La Union** at **AUF Medical Center-Pampangga.** And you get the best service possible. Alagang-alaga si Inay. Kaya naman ang dali ng paggaling niya. Wala na siyang sakit. Wala ring sakit ang bulsa ko. Salamat sa GSIS.

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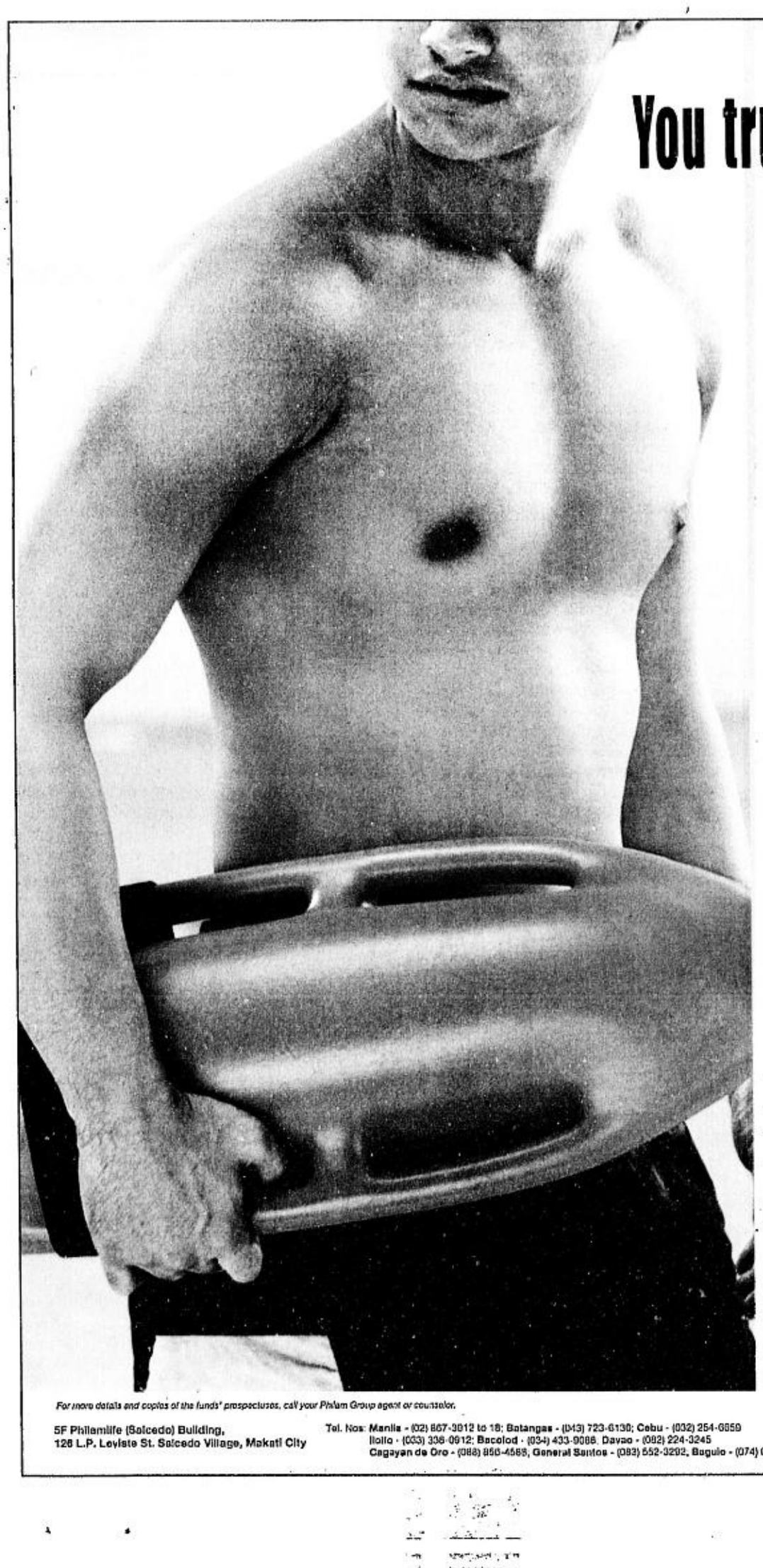

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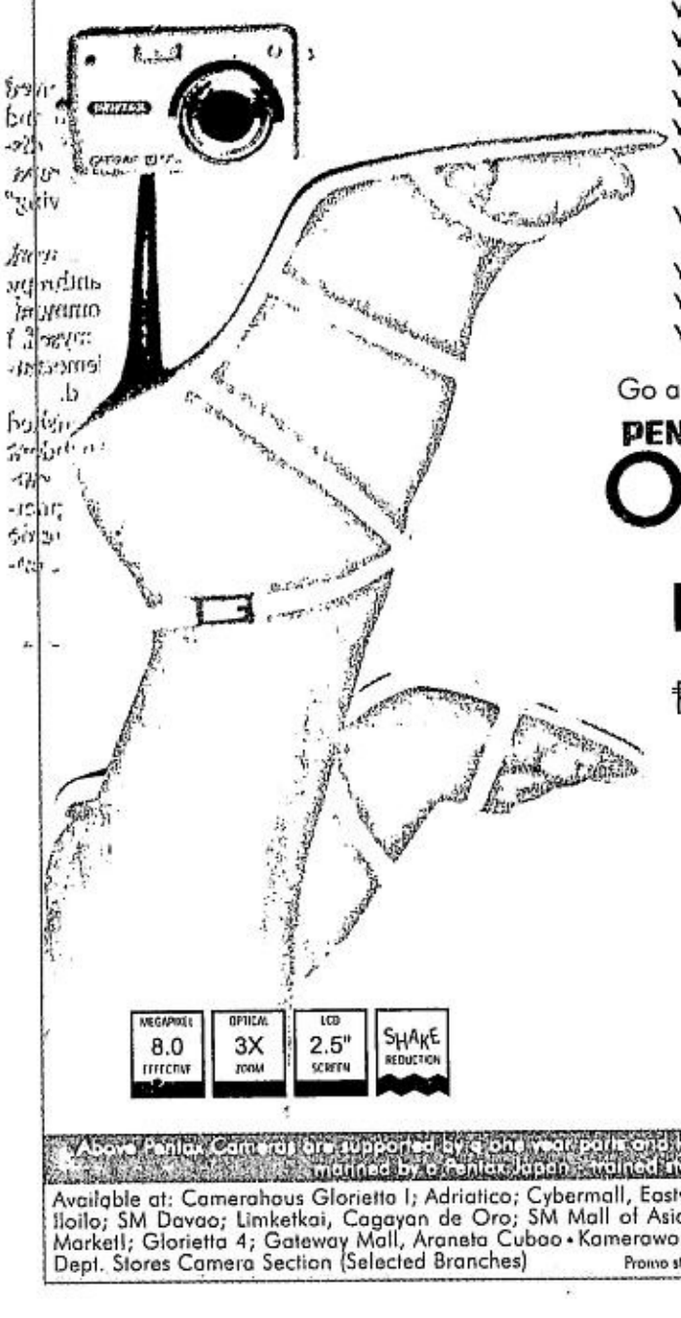

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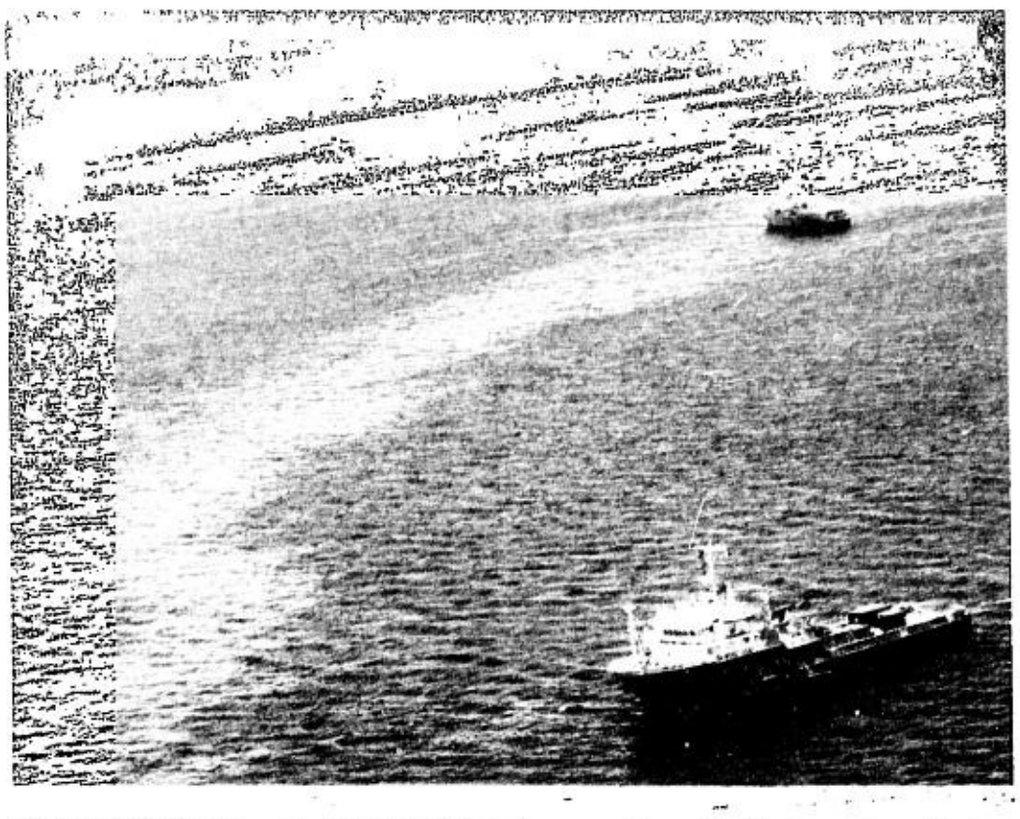

THE JAPANESE salvage ship MT Shinsei Maru, foreground, searches for the sunken oil tanker with a Philippine Coast Guard ship in the waters off Guimaras Island. AP

Tanker found 84 flagpoles deep

From page A1

fertile fishing grounds, pristine marine reserves and white sand beaches. It displaced some 26,000 villagers dependent on fishing for a living.

Two of its crew members are still missing.

Sensors of the Shinsei Maru spotted the tanker at a depth equivalent to 84 flagpoles high, standing end to end, 23.4 km (13 nautical miles) off Barangay La Paz in Nueva Valencia town.

Capt. Luis Tuason, Coast Guard commander in Western Visayas, said the grid coordinates (latitude: 10 degrees 15 minutes 31 seconds north; longitude 122 degrees, 29 minutes 13.3 seconds east) provided by Namria helped the ship confirm the vessel's location, shortening its survey time.

Tuason said the tanker's upright position was positive news, noting that its controls were on top. Assessing the damage and leakage would be easier than if the vessel was upside down or on its side, he said.

Remote-operated vehicle

After confirming the location of the Solar I, the Shinsei Maru lowered a remote-operated vehicle (ROV) to take video footage and determine the condition of the tanker, said Cmdr. Harold Jarder, Coast Guard station chief in Iloilo and on-scene commander.

The ROV, owned by Fukada Salvage and Marine Works Co., is equipped with powerful underwater cameras and an advanced sonar system, and is capable of diving to 2,000 meters underwater.

"It will conduct a survey underwater to find out how the Solar I is lying on the seabed and whether remaining oil in its hull was leaking. It will check its position to determine what action to take," Vice Admiral Arthur Gosingan, Coast Guard chief, told Agence France Presse.

He said that based on the ROV's findings, the Coast Guard would decide whether to refloat the tanker or siphon its contents to prevent a further leak. A third, more costly option would be to bury the entire ship in the seabed.

"I will not stop until the culprits in this tragic event pay dearly for what they did," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a speech on Thursday. "As for the victims, I will see to it that they get the attention they deserve."

Her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, said the oil spill would be treated as a national calamity, "especially in mustering all the necessary resources for the immediate cleanup and containment of the oil spill, and the full protection of our pristine natural resources and the safety and livelihood of our people in the area."

Human error

The disaster is being investigated by an 11-member Special Board of Marine Inquiry (SBMI), formed by the Department of Transportation and Communication upon the Coast Guard's recommendation. The Senate is conducting its own inquiry.

"Human error seems [to be] a major cause at this point," Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza told the INQUIRER in Manila.

The SBMI, headed by Rear Admiral Danilo Abinoja, has so far learned that a day before it sank, the Solar I started taking in seawater during stormy weather and began leaning on its starboard side. It temporarily docked at an anchorage area in Iloilo, where crew members pumped out the seawater and repaired a ventilator.

The tanker did not drop anchor, apparently because of a defective windlass.

Norberto Aguro, the skipper, had told the board that he decided to return to the open sea because "there was no typhoon." The vessel was then pounded by big waves after passing Guimaras on Aug. 11, tilted on its side again, and started sinking.

Aguro and his crew, together with two cargo surveyors, abandoned the tanker. Two of the crew members have not been found.

The captain tried to dismiss the Coast Guard's suspicions that his "lapse in judgement" led to the tanker's sinking and the subsequent national disaster. He maintained that he was competent to take the helm and blamed the accident to the huge waves whipped up by the bad weather.

CBCP appeal

"The causes of this tragedy need to be fully and honestly investigated in order that justice may be served," said Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), in a circular issued on Wednesday.

Lagdameo also called for transparency and sincerity in the government-led investigation as he expressed concern over the effects of the oil spill on the ecosystem and the livelihood of the people.

"We cannot be responsible for the refloating of the Solar I or for the siphoning of the oil, but we can reach out immediately to the families in the affected barangays in terms of material help, because they have lost their livelihoods in the sea," he said.

He appealed to the faithful to extend whatever help they could to the families.

Visayan governors

In Bacolod City, the League of Provinces of the Philippines and neighbors of Guimaras gave the oil slick-hit province P6.5 million at a meeting of the governors of the Visayas at the provincial capitol on Wednesday.

Aklan, Antique, Negros Occidental, Capiz and Iloilo gave P200,000 each to Guimaras, while the League of Provinces of the Philippines gave P500,000.

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia gave P5 million.

"That is the beauty of the Visayan governors who are very solid and very close. We cooperate and support each other. If there were federal governments already we would be ready for it," Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez said.

The governors also passed a resolution calling on Petron, which had chartered the Solar I, to hasten the cleanup of the spill, Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz said.

The CBCP circular included a list of barangays affected by the slick—La Paz, San Roque, Dolores, Tando, Lucmayan, Cabalagnan, Panobolon, Canhawan, Igdarapdap, San Antonio and Guiwanon. Lagdameo said he personally visited the affected areas and described La Paz as "the most heavily damaged."

Evacuation

"Fisherfolks were scraping the shore of oily sand and putting them in sacks," Lagdameo said. "Hundreds of sacks of oily sand have been piled up. Sand, stones, wood, seaweeds and mangroves have been irretrievably blackened by the tanker oil. They need truckloads of palay stalks to help absorb the oil."

Around 400 persons in La Paz and Cabalagnan in Nueva Valencia have been evacuated since Tuesday.

Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava said he was convincing officials and residents of affected barangays to evacuate to avoid health disorders triggered by the spill.

"It's in their interest to transfer to safe grounds," Nava, who is a physician, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"We expect the cleanup to take more than six months," Gosingan said, adding that apart from the Japanese ship, marine experts and biologists from the United States, France and Australia as well as environmental groups were in the area.

Coast Guard regional commander Tuason said the Shinsei Maru's survey would be finished by tomorrow or Saturday, depending on weather conditions.

The Japanese ship arrived at the Iloilo International Port on Wednesday night. Its crew met with Coast Guard officials led by Vice Admiral Gosingan, and discussed the procedures for the survey. *With reports from Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas; Christian V. Esguerra, Riza T. Olchondra and Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila; AFP*

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Korean RM awardee made democracy work

From page A1

For his work, Park was chosen to receive the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service.

Park, along with five other achievers and an organization, received his award at formal ceremonies yesterday at the Cultural Center of the Philippines for the region's equivalent of the Nobel Prize which was named after the popular Filipino president who died in a plane crash in 1957.

The other awardees were Cambodia's Ek Sonn Chan, Filipino journalist and publisher Eugenia Duran-Apostol, Nepalese doctor Sanduk Ruit, Indian leader Arvind Kejriwal, Filipino community builder Antonio Meloto and his Gawad Kalinga organization.

The 50-year-old Park was cited for his "principled activism fostering social justice, fair business practice, clean government and a generous spirit in South Korea's young democracy."

Born to a poor Korean farmer in 1956, Park spent his childhood under a military dictatorship.

Working hard to avail himself of a scholarship, Park attended the Seoul National University where he got involved in the student protests against military rule. Expelled from school, Park spent four months in jail, an experience that steeled him to bring back democracy to Korea.

But even after democracy was restored in South Korea in 1986, Park said human rights violations, corruption, inefficiency in government and citizens' apathy persisted.

To address these problems, Park founded the People's Solidarity of Participatory Democracy (PSPD), an advocacy for government transparency and accountability, civil rights and political reform.

Reformist laws

In the late 1990s, Park said the PDSP labored for the enactment of reformist laws. It also campaigned against corrupt legislators, and made sure they were not reelected. He said complaints lodged by the PDSP against executives also led to the arrest and trials of top businessmen.

"At last, Korea is in the era of strong democracy with its emphasis on expanding human rights, abolishing bureaucratic corruption and driving out government inefficiency. All this has become possible thanks to the passionate participation of Korean citizens," Park said in his lecture on Wednesday, "Making Social Change Everybody's Business."

PARK WON SOON

In 2002, just as South Korea was experiencing rapid industrialization and sudden economic growth, Park established the Beautiful Foundation and the Beautiful Store.

According to him, the two organizations were aimed at spreading love, charity and generosity among Koreans, and the Korean society, who were enjoying an economic boom.

Pigs with pearl necklaces

"I felt we were like pigs wearing pearl necklaces," Park said. "It is difficult for social welfare and lessening the big gap between the rich and poor to be achieved only through government policy implementation.

Under the Beautiful Foundation, Park urged Koreans to donate 1 percent of their annual earning to the foundation.

The Koreans responded favorably. Last year, the foundation received 11.7 billion won (US$11.7 million) in donations, mostly from ordinary workers, small store owners and even bootblacks, peddlers and people with disabilities.

The Beautiful Store, meantime, received used items which the foundation sold to raise revenues. There are 72 stores across the country, with total earnings of 6.4 billion won last year, according to Park.

Culture of giving

Park said donations received by the Beautiful Foundation and the Beautiful Store were distributed among the poor, propagating a "culture of giving" among Koreans.

But Park stressed that his work was not all about philanthropy. "Considering society and community as priorities rather than myself, I have dreamed of a more democratic, humanistic society," he said.

Park has recently established Hope Institute, an independent think tank where ordinary citizens meet to formulate "pragmatic, policy-oriented ideas to guide and strengthen South Korea's ongoing democratization."

Christian . . .

From page A1

Christian authors Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, which have logged sales in the tens of millions.

"Eternal Forces" is set at the biblical end of time known as Rapture, according to Dereck Wong of Left Behind Games in California.

It pits "good" Tribulation Forces against "evil" Global Community Peacekeepers led by the anti-Christ.

The key to the game is recruiting and sustaining people and winning inevitable, albeit bloodless, battles between good and evil, according to Wong. The characters and story line are from the first four "Left Behind" books.

"Rumors can be set to rest regarding the content," said Left Behind Games chief executive Troy Lyndon. "'Eternal Forces' has no blood, no gore, no call to jihad and no gratuitous sex or violence of any kind."

For the Tribulation Force, prayer is a key strategy to build points. Another way is finding hidden scrolls bearing scripture verses left behind by loved ones already whisked into afterlife.

In contrast, the Antichrist forces get strength by swearing and wicked deeds, according to the game makers.

Spiritual warfare

Players conduct "physical and spiritual warfare" and can trigger "spectacular angelic or demonic activity" with their choices.

"We really are the alternative to a 'Grand Theft Auto'," Wong said, referring to the hit video game in which points are scored by carjackings, killings and other malevolence.

"What we are finding is violence doesn't make it a better game. Gamers are interested in the story line and the challenge."

Winning play gets rewarded with "Christian theme songs" or tips about what will happen to a person during Rapture, which evangelical Christians believe is the time that Jesus ushers all believers to heaven.

But nonbelievers can skip the rewards and play the game too, Wong said.

"We wanted it to be a great game first ... We are not here to preach to you. It is not a game to be Bible-thumping."

Even so, players will be encouraged to seek out up to seven other friends to play together on line, according to Wong.

Remains to be seen

It remains to be seen whether a Christian-themed game can take off.

"It is untested waters, but clearly there is potential," said analyst David Cole of DFC Intelligence, which tracks the computer game industry. "Look at the number of Christians out there."

"If you asked people several years ago whether they would ever do a major movie with a Christian theme, you'd get a lot of skeptics. Then Mel Gibson came along and did a movie that was quite successful," he said, referring to the 2004 hit film "The Passion of the Christ."

"Gamers have this stereotype of being real violent, but that hasn't been the truth historically," Cole said.

He referred to the blockbuster successes of Pokeman, Mario Brothers, Tetris, and "cutesy fantasy land games."

Studies indicate the average age for gamers is about 32, and that they spend more time playing strategy games than gory games.

Enthusiastic

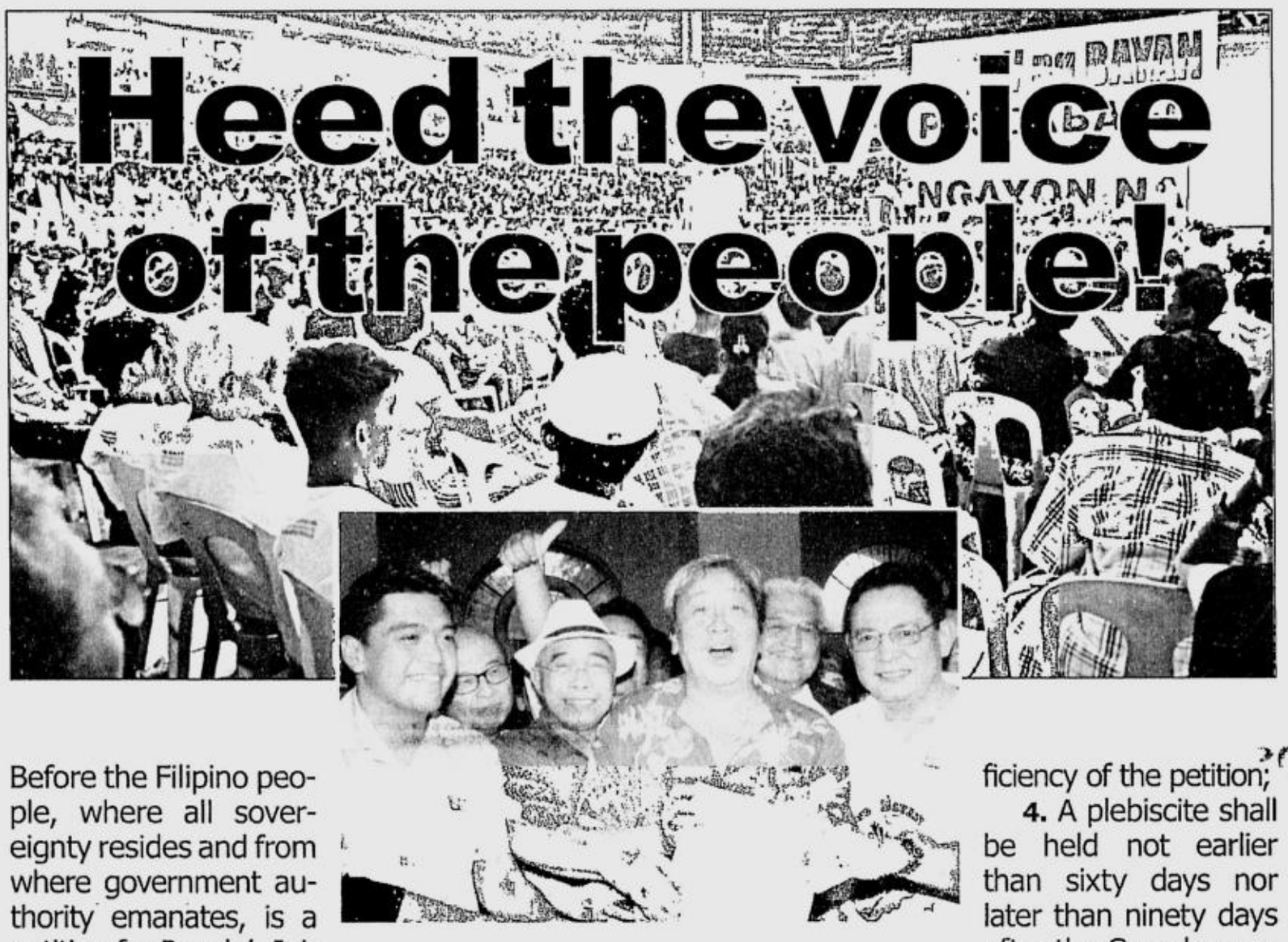
Demo versions of "Eternal Forces" were tested on people attending Christian rock music concerts and got enthusiastic reviews, Wong said.

Mega-churches, those with memberships topping 3,000 parishioners, have reportedly committed to distribute the beta version of the game, which will also be available at the Left Behind Games website.

Mainstream retailers are interested in the game and a European distributor is in place, according to the company.

The final version of Eternal Forces is slated for distribution in time for the Christmas shopping season, and will include a copy of the first Left Behind book, at a planned price of $49.95.

"It's exciting," Wong said. "We are competing with the Electronic Arts and the Activisions of the world." *AFP*



Before the Filipino people, where all sovereignty resides and from where government authority emanates, is a petition for People's Initiative—signed by 6.3 million voters—to amend the 1987 Constitution and change to a unicameral parliamentary system.

The signatories to the petition far outnumber those that brought about the 'People Power' revolutions of 1986 and 2001. Those two events created a political model for the young democracies—of how citizens, acting in concert, can directly force political change ***once all other constitutional remedies fail.***

INITIATIVE IS THE NEW FACE OF PEOPLE POWER

This petition to amend the Charter through People's Initiative is People Power being exercised ***within the legal and constitutional framework.***

The 1987 Constitution provides—clearly and completely—the criteria for the exercise of People's Initiative. An implementing law may provide ***details*** as to its exercise—***but even the lack of such a law cannot stop the process dead on its tracks.***

CONSTITUTION SETS THE STANDARDS FOR INITIATIVE

Article XVII of the 1987 Charter states the standards clearly:

1. Amendments to the Constitution may likewise be directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition;

2. The petition must be filed by at least twelve ***per centum*** of the total number of registered voters, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three ***per centum*** of the registered voters therein;

3. The Comelec shall certify as to the sufficiency of the petition;

4. A plebiscite shall be held not earlier than sixty days nor later than ninety days after the Comelec certification of the sufficiency of the petition;

5. Any amendments shall be valid when ratified by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite; and

6. No amendment under the people's initiative shall be authorized within five years following the ratification of the 1987 Constitution nor oftener than once every five years thereafter.

We take the view that Republic Act 6735—which provides for a system of initiative and referendum— faithfully reflects these standards and appropriates funds for this system of direct action by citizens.

And we plead on behalf of the millions of its signatories that the Commission on Elections and the High Court take the prudent and compassionate course in deciding on this people's initiative.

ONLY THE SUPREME COURT CAN SAVE THE NATION

This Initiative is our last chance as a people to improve our political system qualitatively ***through this constitutional means.***

Only the Supreme Court can save the nation and restore hope to our people.

Charter Change is our last chance to win a ***new*** beginning—for ourselves and for those who will come after us.

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Fisherman missing after abduction

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Armed men believed to be Army soldiers abducted two members of a leftist fishermen's group on Wednesday night in Hagonoy, Bulacan, releasing one on Thursday but after she was severely beaten.

POLICE sketches of the suspects in the killing of the Claver couple in Kalinga. HANDOUT PHOTO

Gerry Albert Corpuz, information officer of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said Napoleon Bautista remained missing on Thursday.

His wife, Ofelia, was taken to the Hagonoy District Hospital for treatment of injuries.

The couple was snatched in a hut in Barangay San Roque. They work as guards in a fishpond owned there by a Dr. Benny Castro, Corpuz said.

The abduction was also confirmed by Supt. Julio Villaruel, Hagonoy police chief.

He said the Bautistas are members of the Samahang Bantay Palaisdaan, a local chapter of the Pamalakaya, and also of the Anakpawis party-list group.

"Pamalakaya believes that the perpetrators belonged to the Task Force Bulacan [of the Philippine Army]," Corpuz told the INQUIRER in a text message.

Palparan campaign

According to him, the abduction was part of the campaign of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the 7th Infantry Division, to single out Pamalakaya and Anakpawis members in the counterinsurgency drive in Bulacan's coastal towns.

Lt. Col. Rogelio Boac, the commander of a task force based in Hagonoy, could not be reached for comment. His mobile phone was off when the INQUIRER tried to call him on Thursday morning.

Bautista was the 59th victim of disappearance in Central Luzon, and the 28th in Bulacan, since September 2005, a report from the human rights advocate Karapatan showed.

The attacks on members of leftist organizations continued as police searched for two men who witnesses identified as those involved in the July 31 ambush of a prominent Kalinga couple working for the party-list group Bayan Muna in Kalinga.

Dr. Constancio Claver, Bayan Muna-Kalinga coordinator and a member of the Montañosa Research and Development Center, survived the attack in Tabuk town, but his wife, Alice Omengan-Claver, was killed.

Suspects' description

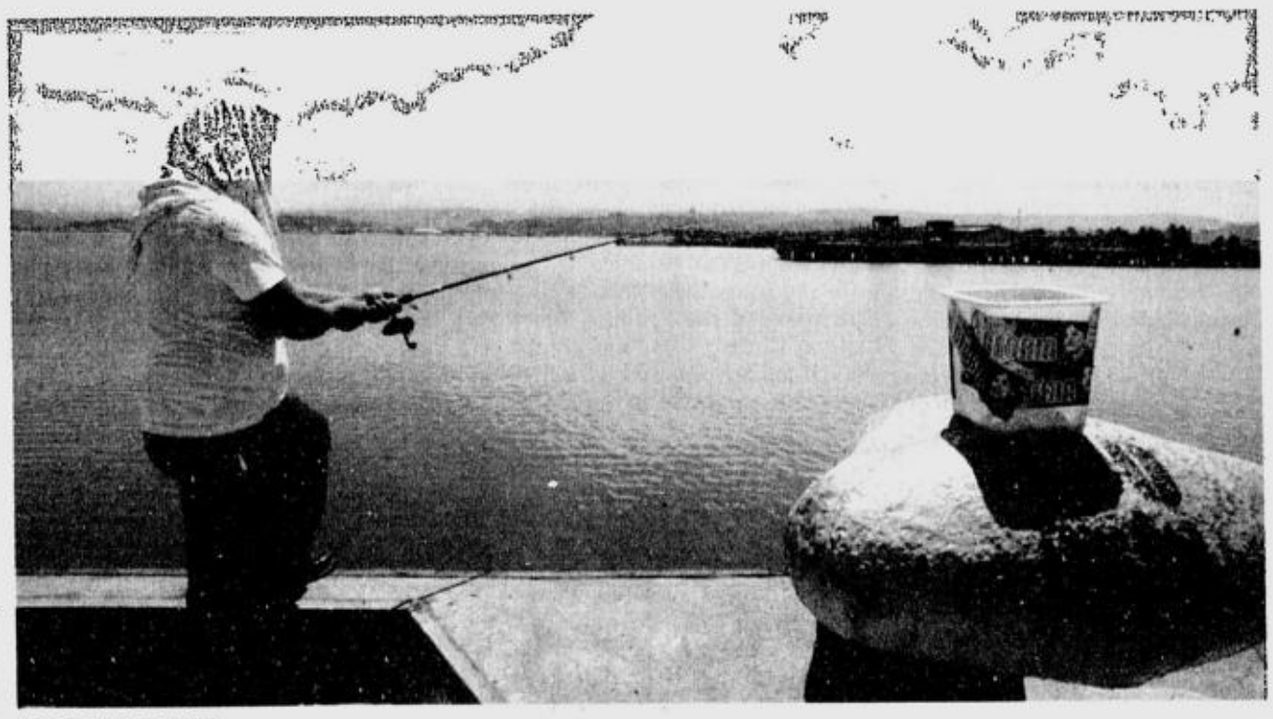
Witnesses described the gunman as heavy set, and who may be between 38 and 45 years old. He stands 5'5". Official police accounts said the gunman had a beard but the sketch didn't show it.

The gunman was supposedly part of a group of men who fled in two vans, police said.

Police also released the description of the gunman's accomplice. He appeared to be younger, is 5'4" tall, and "good-looking."

Chief Supt. Raul Gonzales, Cordillera police director, said the attacks on the Clavers had the same signs as the attacks on other Bayan Muna members. He did not elaborate.

On June 8, another Bayan Muna leader, Rafael Markus Bangit, was shot and killed by gunmen in Isabela while he was on his way back from Kalinga to Baguio City where he lived. *Tonette Orejas with a report from Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



LONELY PORT TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

A port worker tries his luck at catching fish at the Poro Point Seaport, which used to teem with vessels unloading mostly agricultural cargo. The port is idle now following an armed takeover on orders of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

BCDA says ₱3.5M for PR, but not because of crisis

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Bases Conversion Development Authority said the P3.5 million that it allocated was for the services of a PR consultant but was not for crisis management on the heels of controversies hounding the state-owned agency.

"The ongoing bidding is for its regular corporate communications requirement," the BCDA said in a statement to the INQUIRER on Thursday.

It said the public relations budget is being taken from the regular annual corporate operating funds since 1996.

The Aug. 19 bid invitation, it said, has been the third posted since March this year.

The two biddings "failed" because of the noncompliance by prospective bidders with the required eligibility documents.

The first bid notice was posted on March 6 and the second, on April 21, the agency's website showed.

The BCDA statement assured that the bidding is "being undertaken with utmost integrity and transparency as it strictly adheres to the government's procurement law."

The latest bid notice, posted on the agency's website on Aug. 19, came following court cases filed by Poro Point Industrial Corp. against the Aug. 5 takeover of the Poro Point seaport in La Union by the BCDA.

On Aug. 24, the Concerned Central Luzon Contractors wrote the INQUIRER to bare the alleged collection of "advance commissions" allegedly by Rex Chan, BCDA vice president for operations, for non-existent subcontracts in the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project in Bataan, Pampanga and Tarlac.

Chan denied the charges, saying his accusers were trying to malign him and wanted him out of the BCDA. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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NBI nabs 4 Chinese during raid on shabu lab

By Margaux C. Ortiz,
in Manila
and Tonette Orejas,
Inquirer Central Luzon Desk

AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL BUreau of Investigation (NBI) arrested four Chinese nationals, including what they described as a seasoned chemist, and seized P120 million worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu, in a remote village in Dingalan, Aurora on Wednesday.

The NBI agents, with the help of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) operatives, apprehended chemist Wang Twa Ti or Ong Tua Ti, and his helpers Zi Qu or Sy To, Chien Chien or Xian Tian, and Joey Chua or Zhin Na.

"This is by far the largest shabu laboratory our law enforcers have discovered in recent months," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said in a press conference at the NBI yesterday.

Gonzalez added, "The NBI's accomplishment is especially significant because they were able to take hold of the chemist, which rarely takes place in these kinds of operations."

Rep. Roque Ablan, chair of the House committee on illegal drugs, said some individuals have called the NBI to request for the release of Wang, in exchange for P10 million.

"This only shows how in demand this particular chemist was," Ablan said.

A fifth Filipino suspect, Francisco Ramos, was also arrested after operatives found him inside the laboratory.

Investigation conducted by NBI Anti-Illegal Drug Task Force chief Ruel Lasala and Reaction, Arrest and Interdiction Division (RAID) head Roel Bolivar showed that after intensive surveillance, they were able to confirm that a clandestine drug laboratory had been operating in Barangay Butas na Bato in Dingalan for the past three months.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said the four undocumented Chinese suspects, who entered the Philippines illegally, rented two rest houses at the Jonathan Resort and converted these into laboratories.

"The owner of the resort will likewise be investigated to determine if he was aware of this operation," Mantaring said.

After obtaining a search warrant from Judge Reynaldo Ross of the Manila Regional Trial Court, NBI and PDEA operatives raided the laboratory and seized 30 kg of shabu in crystal and liquid form, mixers, gas stoves, funnels and cooking kettles.

The operatives were also able to confiscate chemicals, including iodine crystals, sodium hydroxide, alcohol and red phosphorous.

"The suspects were in the third phase of the manufacture of shabu, including the purification and crystallization of the illegal drugs," Lasala said.

Lasala added that the shabu may have undergone the primary stages of processing in makeshift laboratories in boats and ships before they were brought to Dingalan.

The NBI official also said the suspects face charges of shabu manufacturing under Republic Act No. 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

IDLE
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS
A boy sits on a wooden boat docked on the shores of Barangay Bay-ang Ajuy in Iloilo after fishermen in the area decided to wait it out before setting out to sea to fish following the massive oil spill from the tanker Solar I that continues to discharge at least 200 liters of oil per hour from its storage areas.

Aurora folk shocked at shabu operations

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—RESidents of Dingalan, Aurora, were "shocked and insulted" that their landslide-stricken town had been used as a base of a Chinese syndicate engaged in the making of shabu, acting Mayor Edgardo Galvez said.

"Our people were shocked. They weren't expecting that an illegal activity was happening right in their midst," Galvez said of reactions to Wednesday's raid on a shabu laboratory in a seaside resort in Barangay Butas na Bato.

Agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, National Bureau of Investigation and Philippine National Police seized 10 kilograms of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), five kg of raw substances, as well as equipment for the manufacture of shabu, according to a report from the Dingalan police.

Four Chinese, identified as Xian Tian, 28; Zhi Qu, 25; Ong Tua Ti, 24; and Zhin Na, 30, were arrested in the raid. A Filipino suspect, Francisco Ramos, 54, of Barangay Davil-Davilan, was also nabbed. The owner of the resort has been sought for questioning.

In a phone interview, Galvez said this was the first time that a shabu facility was found to be operating in the village, 3 km from the town proper.

"We did not know that something like this existed in our town," Galvez said.

Insp. Dexter Corpuz, Dingalan police chief, confirmed that village officials were clueless. "All the while they thought that the suspects were tourists or investors. They had been in the area for over a month now," he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Probe of skin disease link to Cabuyao dump sought

VICE PRESIDENT AND HOUSING CZAR NOLI de Castro sought a speedy diagnosis of the skin diseases that have spread in the Southville Housing Project of the National Housing Authority in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The Vice President, in a statement, said he issued the order following the spread of skin diseases in the housing project.

In his statement, he also said he wanted an investigation made if there was any connection with a dump in the area and the skin diseases.

Federico Laxa, NHA manager, in the same statement said he wrote a letter to the Department of Health and the local government unit of Cabuyao requesting for medical teams to be sent to the project area.

Laxa said he, too, wanted to know if the dump operations were connected with the spread of the skin diseases.

Based on earlier reports, 38 children have been infected with the skin diseases. Laxa said it was barely 1 percent of the 33,485 people who found new homes in the project site.

Last month, Laxa said, the NHA held a dental and medical mission for 6,697 families in the area as part of the medical service package of the relocation site.

Acting Baguio mayor unsure of stand on pay parking deal

BAGUIO CITY—ON his first official day in office on Thursday, acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. was not sure whether to implement the two executive orders on street parking fees here that caused the suspension of Mayor Braulio Yaranon.

ACTING Baguio Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. assumes office and says he would exercise caution on the pay parking controversy that led to the suspension of Mayor Braulio Yaranon. EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

While announcing that he would not withdraw the orders directing motorists to ignore the fees imposed by Jadewell Parking Corp., and the police to arrest the firm's parking attendants, Bautista said he would not enforce them.

"We will be more cautious (in dealing with Jadewell) from now on," he said.

It was a Jadewell complaint that convinced Malacañang to suspend for a year the 78-year-old mayor, a retired trial court judge, for abusing his authority.

The city government was also prevented by both the Baguio Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals from rescinding the Jadewell management contract because its original proponents granted the firm a five-year guarantee against encumbrances.

The guarantee period lapsed this year, and the city council has initiated proceedings aimed at rescinding the 12-year contract.

The council also began repealing the ordinance that legitimized the contract.

Bautista said regardless of council action, he must still treat Jadewell as a government contractor which was why he has lined up a series of negotiations with Rogelio Tan, the firm's president, to smoothen their working relationships.

Bautista said the main concern of the city government is to restore the original operating terms that restrict parking fee collections from city streets between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. every day.

Norma Tan, Jadewell operations manager, said they never intended to engage in a legal and public battle with Yaranon and the critics of the pay parking contract.

"We are also victims here because we had no politician in Malacañang protecting us the way Yaranon was shielded for a long time," she said.

Tan was referring to Secretary Silvestre Afable, chief government negotiator with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, who resigned in protest of Yaranon's suspension.

Afable's mother, newspaper editor Cecile Okubo-Afable, is at the forefront of the campaign to rescind the Jadewell contract.

Yaranon said he issued the anti-Jadewell directives because the contract and ordinance legitimizing the firm's control over local streets violated the Constitution. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Power deals hound FVR

By TJ Burgonio

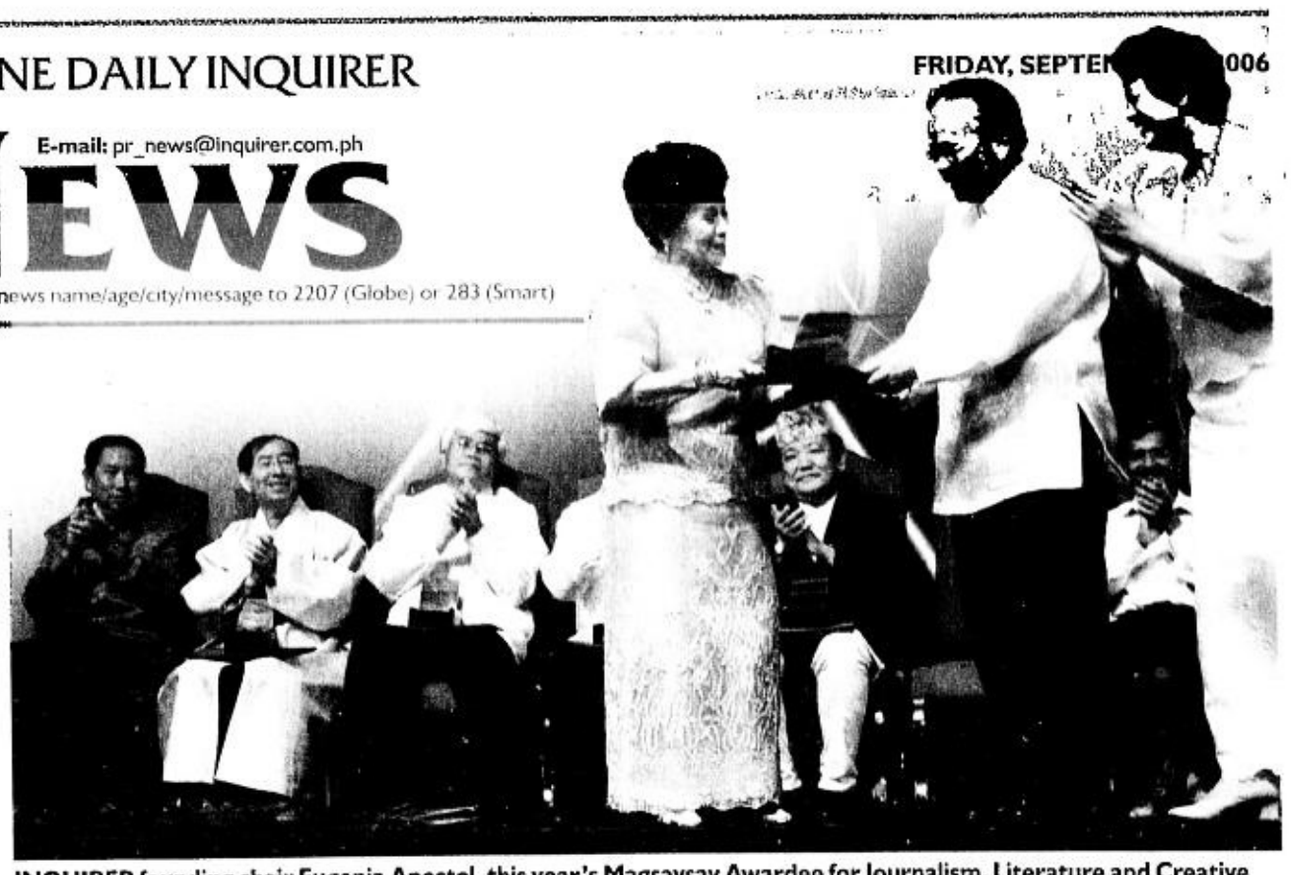
EIGHT YEARS AFTER LEAVING OFFICE, former President Fidel V. Ramos continues to be hounded by the purportedly onerous power contracts forged during his administration to address the power and water crises of the '90s.

Appearing before the Joint Congressional Power Commission on the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), Ramos ended up being grilled on the contract with a US-based energy firm to build and operate the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP) in Nueva Vizcaya.

The 20-year contract with Cal-Energy, or the California Energy Casecnan Water and Energy Co., forged in 1994 had been dubbed the "most corrupt deal" in the power industry at the time.

The contract obliges Cal-Energy to deliver, purchase guaranteed, 150 megawatts of electricity to the National Irrigation Administration and National Power Corp. for the Luzon grid. The government pays it P2.8 billion for power and P4 billion for water a year regardless of whether it delivers either, a senator said.

This time no sparks flew between arch-enemies Ramos and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the power commission, who left it to her colleagues to ask the questions throughout the two-hour long hearing that was set to tackle amendments to the Epira law.



INQUIRER founding chair Eugenia Apostol, this year's Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication, receives her award from Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban assisted by Emily Abrera. Looking on are the other awardees: (from left) Ek Sonn Chan of Cambodia, Park Won Soon of South Korea, Antonio Meloto of the Philippines, Sanduk Ruit of Nepal and Arvind Kejriwal of India. ROGER MARGALLO

'Faceless heroes' share RM Awards

SHARING IT WITH ALL THE SELFLESS MEN and women who helped them achieved the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, this year's Magsaysay laureates accepted their award yesterday in proceedings at the jampacked main theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Philipine Daily Inquirer founding chair Eugenia Duran-Apostol, who received the award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts, donated her P2.53 million cash prize to the Education Revolution for which the Foundation for Worldwide People Power was launched three years ago.

"That I be chosen as one of these men and women was far from my wildest dreams. I shall never agree with anyone saying that I am worthy of this Award," Apostol, dressed in a light yellow gown, said.

Apostol, however, said she was thankful for the money that goes with it because it could go to the Education Revolution, her newest adovcacy.

Now on its 38th year, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, which is the Asian equivalent to the Nobel Prize, is given to outstanding achievers in Asia in the field of public service, government service, community leadership, peace and international understanding, emergent leadership and journalism, literature and creative communication arts.

"This award is a celebration of ordinary Filipinos who have found their strength, their voice and their power because they have decided to stop blaming one another and decided instead to work together," Antonio Meloto, who received the award fo community leadership, said.

And volunteers from the Gawad Kalinga, who practically filled the CPP to rafters, gave Meloto a standing ovation.

Francisco Padila, chair of the board of trustees of Gawad Kalinga, said it was a "great honor" of having received the Ramon Magsaysay Award and should be shared with "the many faceless heroes of GK who are giving themselves without counting the cost."

Ek Sonn Chan,who received the Award for government service, recalled how he accepted a job to head the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority because the office had become synonymous to corruption.

He said it was a "most profound honor" that he would be cited "having rehabilitated a ruined public utility" and bringing safe drinking water to the capital city.

"Tonight, I feel light as a feather, because I was awarded this esteemed prize. But I also feel heavy hearted because I can sense difficulties and barriers looming in the near future," Park Won Soon, who receive the award for public service, said in his acceptance speech.

Park said he was also sharing the "glorious award" with fellow Koreans who shared his dream of a better world. "These are people who donate their knowledge, wisdom, money, time and talent for a better society," he said.

Admitting that he was both "extremely excited and humbled" by the honor, Sanduk Ruit, from Nepal, also shared his award for peace and understanding with hundreds of thousands of blinded cataract patients "for whom I have played a small part in restoring their sight and giving them dignity in their lives."

Arvind Kejriwal, meanwhile, said he was also humbled by the award. "Ordinarily, my own credentials would not stand up to the scrutiny of this group, but I take heart from the fact that I stand here today not on my own achievements but as a representative of the movement for the people's Right-to-Information movement in India."

The 38-year old Kejriwal was awarded for emergent leadership.

Former presidents Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos also graced ceremonies along with former Chief Justice Hilario Davide, himself a Magsaysasay awardee for government service in 2002.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, who gave the congratulatory remarks, said awardees embody inspiring accounts of the "vim and vigor of resolute advocacy."

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3124, Series of 2006

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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DID YOU KNOW

GIL PUYAT Avenue (formerly Buendia) in Makati City was named after the late Senate president who held the position from 1967 to 1972. Puyat, born on Sept. 1, 1907, was a former economics professor at the University of the Philippines, where he graduated with a degree in commerce. When he was 33 years old, then President Manuel L. Quezon appointed him dean of the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration. Puyat went on to become senator in 1951, a post he held until 1972.

Two years after his death in March 1980, Buendia Avenue was renamed in his honor by virtue of Batas Pambansa Blg. 312. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

BIGGEST RP FLAG
The country's biggest flag was unfurled yesterday from the top of the PG Tower in Diliman, Quezon City. The flag is 10 meters wide and 20 meters long. JOAN BONDOC

4 dead in daring afternoon shootout in Intramuros

By Alcuin Papa

FOUR MEN, INCLUDING A POLICEMAN, were killed while four alleged members of a holdup gang were arrested after they engaged police in a daring afternoon shootout in Intramuros, Manila yesterday.

The dead were identified as Rolando Aquino, an Army man who had reportedly gone Awol (absent without leave); Ronaldo Bulaoin, the alleged leader of the robbery gang; PO3 Michael Buenaventura, a member of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), and an unidentified watchman.

Felix Vargas, spokesperson of the CIDG, identified the alleged gang members who were captured as Rodney Santos, Allan Huanico, Buenaventura Almeda and Edwin Saavedra.

According to Vargas, the gang had just held up a foreign exchange shop shortly after 1 p.m. in the Intramuros area when witnesses called the police for help.

The CIDG's Task Force Maverick responded and caught up with the suspects on A. Soriano St. in Aduana, Intramuros.

A shootout ensued, resulting in the death of the the four men and the arrest of the four suspected robbers.

Seized from the suspects were a 9mm pistol, three .38 caliber pistols, three .45 pistols and three cellular phones.

The four suspects were brought to the CIDG headquarters later for questioning.

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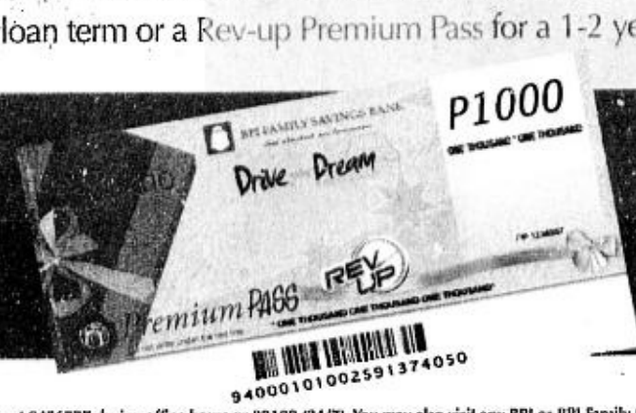

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LINKED TO QC LAWYER'S MURDER

More woes for slay suspect

By Jocelyn R. Uy

POLICE YESTERDAY SAID ONE of the four suspects in the killing of a clerk of court in Muntinlupa City was also involved in the death of a lawyer in Quezon City last week.

Supt. Jose Mario Espino, Muntinlupa police chief, identified the suspect as Jefferson Rafanan, 26, of Sitio Kumunoy, Barangay Bagong Silang in Quezon City. He is now in the custody of the police.

Espino said Rafanan was identified by a witness as one of four men who killed Banaag Alvarez Sr., 64, a clerk of the Muntinlupa Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 80.

An initial investigation disclosed that Alvarez, who had just come from a friend's funeral, was shot as he was sitting in his car parked in front of the Our Lady of the Abandoned Church in Barangay Poblacion on Aug. 20. According to the police, his death might have something to do with his active participation in the demolition of houses in several communities in Barangays Putatan and Cupang early this year

Espino said in an interview yesterday that Rafanan was allegedly also involved in the killing of lawyer Rodolfo Pagkalinawan in Quezon City last Aug. 24. Rafanan was said to be a member of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, a breakaway group of the New People's Army. He is reportedly under the Rogelio Laurente Command of the Partido Marxista-Leninista ng Pilipinas.

Another suspect in the Alvarez slaying was identified as Silberto Villagen, who was arrested in January for illegal possession of firearms and indiscriminate firing resulting in physical injuries.

OUT OF THE RACE
A policeman inspects one of several cars impounded at Camp Crame in Quezon City, after agents of the Traffic Management Group caught several people participating in a drag race on Diosdado Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City. RAFFY LERMA

METROBRIEFS

Answer forthcoming

AUTHORITIES in Mandaluyong City will soon reply to the complaint filed by Barangay Wack-Wack officials over the construction of an 80-foot billboard on Edsa. "We are preparing our response to their letter," Mayor Neptali Gonzales II told the INQUIRER yesterday. Barangay officials on Wednesday sent Gonzales and City Building official Conrad Anciado a letter asking them to recall the permit the two officials had issued for the giant billboard to be built next to a power station on Edsa. The mayor, however, was unfazed by the barangay officials' threat that they would take the matter to court if their demand for the recall of the permit for the billboard was not met. "We welcome with amused anticipation their threatened suit if they can't wait for our answer," Gonzales said in a text message.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

4 suspected robbers arrested

FOUR suspected members of the notorious C-5 Robbery Gang were arrested on Wednesday night after they held up a policewoman and a student on board a jeepney in Taguig City. The police identified the suspects as Bonifacio Gepica, 23; Nerio Duran, 23; Ryann Orine, 22 and a minor. Chief Insp. Edgardo Mendoza, chief of the criminal investigation division unit, said the four robbed the victims as the jeep passed by the Commando Bridge in Barangay Ususan, C-5 Road at around 9 p.m. Wednesday. A group of policemen on patrol, however, arrested the suspects who were later identified by their victims.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Free book on diabetes

FREE books on the nature, prevention and control of diabetes are still available to the public from the Natural Quality Corp. Members of the Philippine General Hospital Association of Diabetes Mellitus Registered Nurses, paramedic associations and Rotary clubs have been referring to the book to help them in caring for diabetic patients. Those interested in having a copy of the book entitled "What you should know about diabetes" can send a self-addressed stamped envelope (P45 for Metro Manila/ P68 for outside Metro Manila) to Ampalaya Plus Diabetes Free Book, 2/F 88 Place at 59 B.G. Belmonte St., New Manila, Quezon City with a box top label of Ampalaya Plus Capsule. The book is also given free upon purchase of a box of Ampalaya Plus Capsule in 10 selected Watson's stores in Metro Manila until Sept. 15.

Temporary site for displaced Taguig folks

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE TAGUIG CITY GOVERNMENT is working double time to provide temporary homes for informal settlers residing at Sitio Masagana, Barangay Western Bicutan in preparation for demolition operations next week.

"The area must already be cleared before Sept. 6 to prevent the recurrence of violent incidents when the military carries out the demolition," Peewee Vasquez, head of the Fort Bonifacio Satellite Government Center, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Nine people were hurt when the team attempted to dismantle the houses of some 500 families in the area the other day. Of the nine, five were residents of the barangay, while the rest were members of the Philippine Army's Task Force Bantay.

Vasquez said they are considering Sitio Masigasig, a neighborhood adjacent to Sitio Masagana, as a temporary site for the families about to be displaced while the Taguig Family Townhomes, a low-cost housing project of the local government, is being constructed.

Although Sitio Masigasig is also part of the Libingan ng mga Bayani, the houses in the area have not been torn down because of a standing temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court, Vasquez said.

Army officials have pointed out the danger posed by houses on Sitio Masagana on planes flying over the area leaving or coming from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport nearby, adding that even a sniper rifle fired from the place could bring down any passing aircraft.

"We will conduct a survey of Sitio Masigasig and other possible relocation sites in Taguig for the displaced residents with the help of the Philippine Army," Vasquez said. He added that some of the residents would be provided with transportation and would start moving out today.

The local government will also provide assistance to those who would like to go back to their respective provinces through the "Balik Probinsya" program.

Concert for volunteers, canines' cause

By Tarra V. Quismundo

CLASSICAL MUSIC WILL LITERALLY go to the dogs in a fundraising concert for volunteers and their four-legged partners in rescue missions.

The music of Frederic Chopin and Filipino composer Nicanor Abelardo will fill the air on Sept. 23 as the Philippine National Red Cross and Philippine Canine Search and Rescue Foundation Inc. (PHK9SAR) stage a benefit concert titled "Dog Day Afternoon." The concert, which will gather international and Filipino musicians in "an elegant soiree of light classical music" will be held at 3 p.m. at the residence of organizer Kumiko Kuroda in Forbes Park, Makati City.

"We save human lives with the help of dogs. But we need funds for these efforts, So I thought of putting up a charity event where the guests can also enjoy beautiful classical music," said Kuroda, who came up with the idea of a fund-raiser with PHK9SAR chair Reneé Speltz.

Proceeds from the concert would go to the Red Cross and PHK9SAR, a group of volunteers and dogs trained to take part in search and rescue operations, bomb detection and evidence tracking. The group was in Southern Leyte last February to rescue villagers buried in a landslide.

The concert will feature tenor Juan Alberto Gaerlan, sopranos Karla Patricia Gutierrez and Jennifer Uy-Wong, violinist Jay Cayuca, cellists Yuuka Omoto and Rafael Laperal, Noriko Kojima, and pianists from the Jovianney Cruz Piano Studio.

Rev. Tony Quintal blessing the new Satellite Clinic.

Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (MEDICard President) and Erineo Maliksi (Cavite Governor) joined by special guest Masao Fukuda (EMI Manufacturing, Inc. Managing Director) on the ceremonial ribbon-cutting.

MEDICard officers and some members of the sales force: Bonnette Cui, Luis Montoya, Dr. Concepcion Montoya, Dr. Nicanor Montoya, Marlyn Ortego, Luzzi Cui, Karen Jose, Junn Miergas and Julian Ortego.

MEDICard special guests and officers, Masao Fukuda, Gov. Erineo Maliksi, Dr. Nicanor Montoya and Luis Montoya.

MEDICard OPENS NEW SATELLITE CLINIC IN IMUS, CAVITE

MEDICard Philippines, one of the country's largest HMOs, with its mission to provide the best quality health care service to its members, inaugurated its newest Satellite Clinic in Imus, Cavite.

MEDICard's Coco Cervantes (Mktg. Services Asst. Supervisor) and Robert Chainani (Sr. Membership Consultant).

MEDICard's Jon de Quiros (Sales & Business Dev't. Asst. Manager) with Gov. Erineo Maliksi.

The recently opened MEDICard satellite clinic which is located at the ground floor of Metrobank Building, Anabu II D, Aguinaldo Highway, officially began its operation last July 3, a few days before its formal inauguration on the 14th of the same month. Under the supervision of Ms. Jenema Dupa, the clinic's doctors and staff work together to guarantee excellent services to the member-patients.

Aside from out-patient consultations and issuance of referral forms, the clinic also provides services for annual physical examination, medical evaluation, laboratory examinations, x-ray and ultrasound as well. Having opened another satellite clinic with these services is a better way for MEDICard to answer the demand of its continuously increasing members.

Other MEDICard satellite clinics are located in Asian Hospital and Medical Center, Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, The New Medical City , Manila Doctor's Hospital, Filinvest Festival Mall and SM North Edsa.

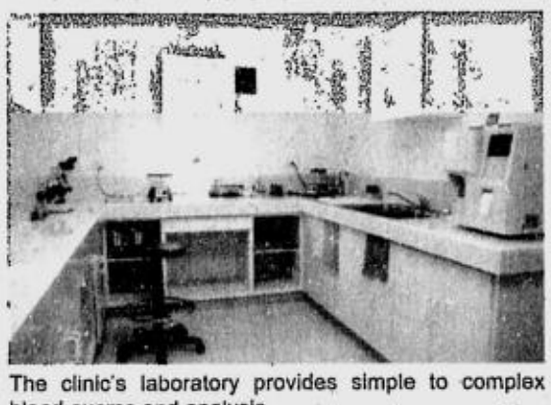
The MPI – Cavite Satellite Clinic is open from Mondays to Fridays, 7 am to 7 pm and on Saturdays, from 7 am to 4 pm. For inquiries, please call (046) 472-1800.

Masao Fukuda enjoying a conversation with Dr. Nicky Montoya (MEDICard Medical Director) and Maricel Torres (Sales & Business Dev't. Sr. Manager).

Officers, Doctors and Nurses of the newly opened MEDICard Cavite Satellite Clinic.

Clinic's lobby provides a warm and friendly atmosphere to patients.

The clinic's X-ray Section.



The clinic's laboratory provides simple to complex blood exams and analysis.

WORLDBRIEFS

Controller had little sleep before crash

LEXINGTON, KY.—The air traffic controller in the tower on Sunday when a Comair jet took off from the wrong runway had had just two hours of sleep, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday evening. The controller had told investigators that he saw the jet on the taxiway and gave it clearance to take off, and then turned his back to attend to other duties, failing to see it take the wrong turn. The plane crashed 29 seconds later, killing 49 of the 50 people on board. *New York Times*

DA takes blame for JonBenet case fiasco

BOULDER, COLO.—District Attorney Mary T. Lacy on Tuesday defended her decision to send her investigators halfway around the globe to arrest a man in the 1996 murder of JonBenet Ramsey, after the case collapsed Monday on the disclosure that DNA tests did not link him to the killing. "Every one of you here knows that hindsight is 20/20 and that after the game is over it's easy to criticize what people have done and what decisions have been made," Lacy said at a news conference on Tuesday morning, two weeks after a similar gathering she called to announce the arrest in Bangkok of the man, John M. Karr, a 41-year-old teacher who had jumped bail after serving six months in California on a 2001 child pornography charge. Karr's arrest generated almost as much news media attention as did JonBenet's killing at her family's home in Boulder on Dec. 26, 1996. Lacy is facing a storm of criticism from scores of local residents who have been calling her and sending her e-mail messages to tell her she should be "tarred and feathered." *New York Times*

More US colleges abandoning SAT

THE SAT may have outlived its usefulness for many small liberal arts colleges. Since Bowdoin and Bates dropped their testing requirements decades ago, more than a quarter of the US News & World Report's Top 100 liberal arts colleges have made college admissions exams optional, and new ones are rapidly joining the list. The new colleges include Mount Holyoke, Middlebury, Hamilton, Union and Dickinson. In recent months, George Mason University, Providence College and Hobart and William Smith Colleges have also become test-optional. Admissions officers said that eliminating the testing requirement had increased both the size and diversity of their applicant pools, and bolstered their reputations as places personal enough to consider each applicant individually. At the same time, the revamped, longer SAT, the drop in average scores announced Tuesday and recent problems with scoring have created growing disenchantment. College officials also say that tests—whether the SAT, or in the Midwest, the ACT—are not the best predictors of performance. "Test scores are a much weaker predictor of how students will do in college than their high school transcript," said Mark Gearan, the president of Hobart and William Smith. *New York Times*

It's a boy for Japan

TOKYO—Japan's Prince Akishino has confided to a friend that his wife Princess Kiko will have a boy, who would be the first male heir born into the royal family in four decades, a magazine reported Thursday. The Shukan Bunshun quoted an unidentified friend who said the prince told him the tightly guarded news three months ago. "A close friend asked Prince Akishino, 'After having two daughters, Princesses Mako and Kako, would the next baby be a boy?'" the weekly said. "Prince Akishino smiled and clearly responded: 'Yes, it seems that way'," the magazine said. The 39-year-old Princess Kiko is expected to give birth by Caesarean section next week. *AFP*

'Prince of hawks' seen taking over as Koizumi set to retire

TOKYO—CONSERVATIVE SHINZO Abe will announce Friday his bid to become Japan's youngest post-war prime minister, with polls showing he is all but certain to succeed the popular Junichiro Koizumi.

ABE AP

Nicknamed the "prince of hawks" for his distinguished pedigree and clear-cut conservatism, Abe has defended a controversial war shrine and championed a revision of Japan's 1947 pacifist constitution.

Abe, who is Koizumi's right-hand man as chief cabinet secretary, is expected to outline his agenda in an address to a meeting of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the western city of Hiroshima.

LDP lawmakers will vote Sept. 20 on a successor as party president to Koizumi, Japan's longest serving premier in three decades who is retiring at age 64 despite high approval ratings.

Newspaper polls showed that Abe already enjoys support from a majority of lawmakers even before announcing his candidacy.

Abe, who will turn 52 a day after the LDP election, would become the youngest prime minister since the end of World War II, surpassing former premier Kakuei Tanaka, who took the helm at 54.

The LDP runs in Abe's blood. He is the son of former foreign minister Shintaro Abe, the grandson of former prime minister Nobusuke Kishi and nephew of former premier and Nobel Peace laureate Eisaku Sato.

Abe rose to prominence talking tough on North Korea, demanding pressure on the communist state over its past kidnappings of Japanese civilians.

His stance contrasts with the patience of Koizumi, a political maverick who has flown twice to North Korea and warned of the risks of further isolating impoverished Pyongyang.

Abe took the mantle of national leader in July. With full support of the United States, he helped lead the campaign that led to limited UN sanctions on North Korea over its missile tests in Japan's direction.

He has also firmly defended Koizumi's visits to the controversial Yasukuni shrine, which honors 2.5 million Japanese war dead including top, or Class-A, war criminals.

His grandfather Kishi served in the war-time cabinet and was jailed as a Class-A criminal. But Kishi escaped the gallows, becoming premier in 1957 and a close ally of the United States.

Abe himself made a secret visit in April to the Shinto sanctuary, often seen as a symbol of Japan's militarism, saying later: "I want to continue respecting whose who lost their lives for the sake of the country." But in a bid to dodge criticism from China and South Korea, both victims of Japan's wartime aggression, Abe added: "Since it has turned into a diplomatic issue, I have no intention to mention if I will go or pray." Abe has also called for revisions to the pacifist constitution imposed after World War II, while proposing a decision-coordinating body similar to the US National Security Council.

"Drafting a new constitution would open up a new era," Abe said in August.

A revision of the constitution, which bans the country from using force or maintaining a military in name, had been taboo until recently in Japan.

On the economic front, Abe is largely expected to follow Koizumi's reforms as Japan recovers from its decade of low growth and recession.

But as criticism grows of the widening income gap under Koizumi, Abe will also propose a new program to help the "losers" of society, according to media reports.

Abe himself has never been seen as a loser.

He graduated from Tokyo's tony Seikei University and studied political science at the University of Southern California before starting his career at major steelmaker Kobe Steel.

In 1987, he married Akie, a daughter of former president of Mirinaga Co. Ltd., one of Japan's largest sweets makers. They have no children. *AFP*

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Draw date: October 6, 2006 (Friday)

SECOND DRAW: (For October 1-31, 2006 Sales Period)
Cut off date: October 31, 2006
Draw date: November 6, 2006 (Monday)

THIRD DRAW: (For November 1-30, 2006 Sales Period)
Cut off date: November 30, 2006
Draw date: December 6, 2006 (Wednesday)

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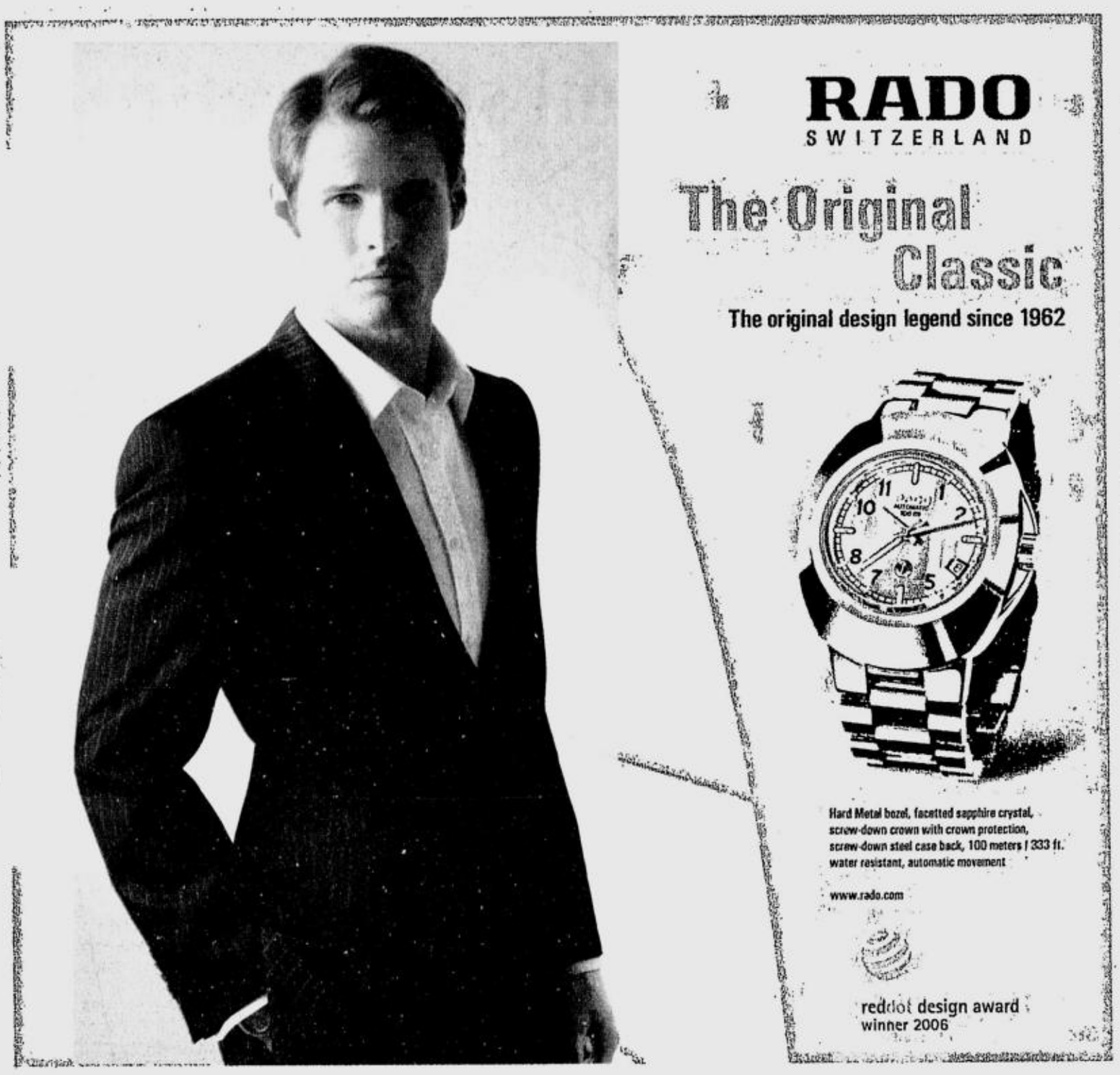

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US, allies move to have UN slap sanctions on Iran

WASHINGTON—WITH IRAN DEFYING A Thursday deadline to halt production of nuclear fuel, the United States and three European allies are assembling a list of sanctions they would seek in the UN Security Council, beginning with restrictions on imports of nuclear-related equipment and material.

Eventually, punitive measures might expand to restrict travel by Iran's leaders and limit the country's access to global financial markets, according to diplomatic officials who are involved in the talks and would speak only on condition of anonymity.

Aside from the effort in the Security Council, the Bush administration is also seeking to persuade European financial institutions to end new lending to Iran. Some Swiss banks have already quietly agreed to limit their lending, US officials say.

Even as an agreement shapes up among the United States, Britain, France and Germany, the push for sanctions faces a high hurdle in the Security Council, given Russia and China's possession of veto power and their opposition to discussion of serious punishment for Iran.

In addition, the sanctions effort may also be hampered by a report on Thursday by the International Atomic Energy Agency, in which inspectors will describe only slow progress by Iran in enriching uranium.

The report, according to diplomats familiar with its contents, will describe how Iran has resumed producing small amounts of enriched uranium since temporarily stopping in the spring, but has not increased the rate of production.

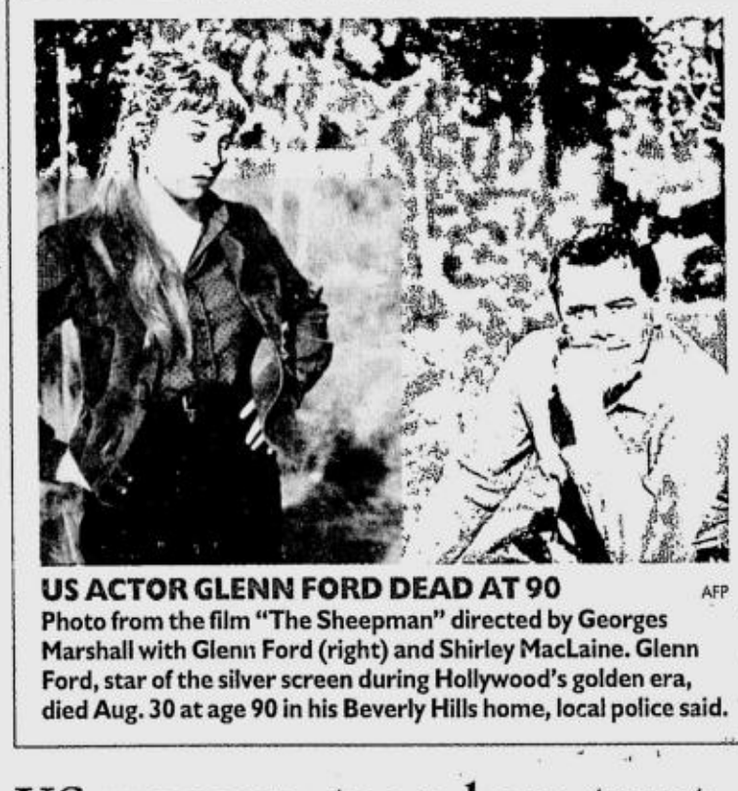
The report is expected to say that the purity of the uranium enrichment would not be high enough for use in nuclear weapons, but only for power plants. Iran has long insisted that its program is for peaceful purposes.

"The big question is why they appear to be moving so slowly," said one European official who has been involved in monitoring Iran's progress. One explanation, the official said, is that the Iranians have not wanted to escalate the confrontation with the Security Council by appearing to be racing ahead in the production of uranium.

Alternative explanations, offered by some US officials, are that the country's scientists have run into technical problems or that they are hiding some of their production facilities. The mystery has been deepened by Iran's restrictions on where international inspectors can roam, and its refusal to allow them to see facilities that Iran has not declared to be related to its nuclear program.

The atomic agency's report is also expected to detail questions that Iran has failed to answer about suspected nuclear activities that it has declined to show to international inspectors.

New York Times



US ACTOR GLENN FORD DEAD AT 90 AFP

Photo from the film "The Sheepman" directed by Georges Marshall with Glenn Ford (right) and Shirley MacLaine. Glenn Ford, star of the silver screen during Hollywood's golden era, died Aug. 30 at age 90 in his Beverly Hills home, local police said.

US woman-teen love tryst scandalizes Aussie senator

PERTH, AUSTRALIA—A 30-year-old Californian woman who left her young child and flew to the opposite side of the world to rendezvous with an Australian teenage boy whom she met on the Internet should be deported, a government senator said Wednesday.

Karen Anderson arrived in the west coast city of Perth a month ago and is sharing a rented apartment with 17-year-old high school student James Barry.

Anderson said she left her 3-year-old daughter with the child's father in California to visit the teen whom she had fallen in love with after five months of chatting via web cam.

Sen. Ross Lightfoot, a member of the conservative government from Western Australia state, said he has written to Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone saying Anderson should be deported or at least refused any new visa on character grounds.

Anderson told the Seven television network she was stunned by the senator's attack, since the age of consent in Western Australia is 16 years.

"I am just kind of dumbfounded because as far as I know, I didn't break a law," she said. "I don't really see that there is a moral issue here."

The relationship has made headlines around Australia in recent weeks.

Barry has told reporters he was a virgin before Anderson arrived. He moved out of his home shortly afterward because his mother does not support the relationship.

The pair have told media that Anderson makes his lunch and drives him to school.

Anderson, a hairdresser, hopes to remain in Australia on a working visa when her tourist visa expires at the end of October, media have reported.

Barry has told reporters that the couple has discussed marriage and that he favors a ceremony in a helicopter.

Lightfoot argues that since Anderson is not allowed to have sex with a child under 18 years in California, she should not be allowed to in Australia.

Media have not reported where in California Anderson lives. She could not be immediately contacted for comment. *AP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Federer, Nadal hammer rivals; Mauresmo scores /A30

SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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Doctor's order: Salud can't be 'it'

SALUD: Staying away from stressful activities.

By Musong R. Castillo

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD.

For medical reasons, Rudy Salud is begging off from spearheading the country's new unified caging body as the common choice of the Basketball Association of the Philippines and Pilipinas Basketball.

The 68-year-old topnotch lawyer, who authored the World Boxing Council and the Philippine Basketball Association constitutions, will inform heads of both caging bodies of the unfortunate development after coming out of a marathon health checkup yesterday at the Medical City in Pasig.

Dr. Carlo Esguerra, head of the five-man surgery team that implanted a state-of-the-art pacemaker on Salud last Feb. 14, advised the sportsman to take it easy until Valentine's Day next year, or a 12 full months after the operation that took seven hours to complete.

"(My doctors have) indicated that they prefer that I stay away from stressful activities like this one," top assistant George Alcantara quoted Salud as saying.

PANGILINAN

DAVIDE

Salud is being prohibited from even using cellular phones and other communication devices because they might affect the pacemaker's functions.

Salud, who as commissioner of the PBA in the 1980s steered the pro league to unprecedented heights both in live attendance and television ratings, has already gone through three major heart operations and survived two brain strokes.

Salud was actually interested in heading the proposed unified basketball body and—apart from his doctors' clearance—had actually laid down two other pre-requisites before entertaining the offer.

No less than BAP president Joey Lina, Pilipinas Basketball head Bernie Atienza and PBA commissioner Noli Eala had approached Salud for the job after striking a new deal with Fiba (international basketball federation) in Japan last week.

"It is regrettable, but there is nothing we can do," Salud said. "I will inform those concerned of this development before the end of the day."

Aside from Salud, Atienza said they are also considering PLDT-Smart chair Manny V. Pangilinan, Alaska Milk chief Fred Uytengsu, former senator Freddie Webb and former Chief Justice Hilario Davide for the job.

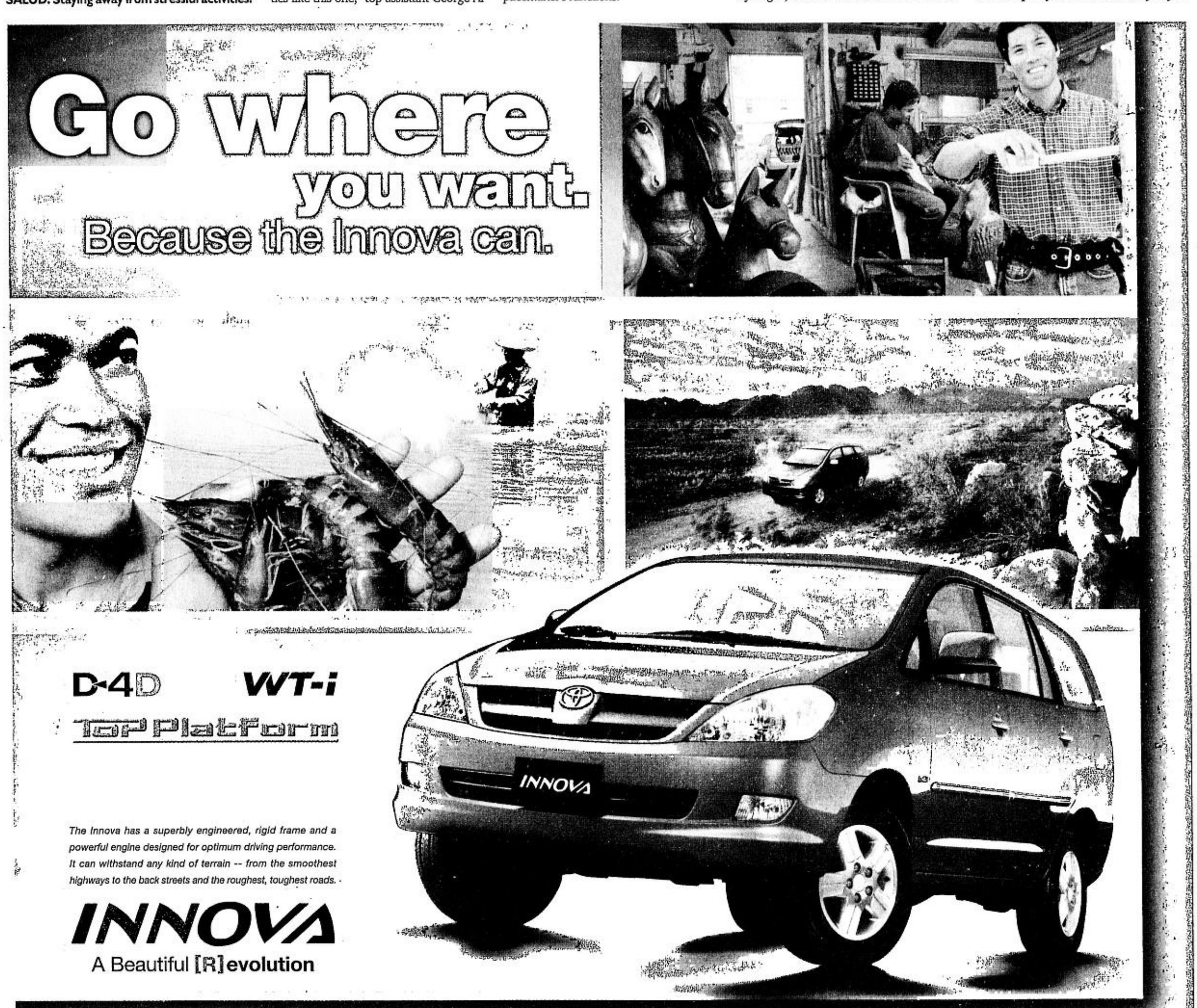
Atienza, who arrived from Tokyo on Wednesday, said the third man in the panel—as mandated by the Fiba—may not necessarily become the new basketball czar. He said that Lina is being considered to assume the position of chair and the group's presiding officer once it is established.

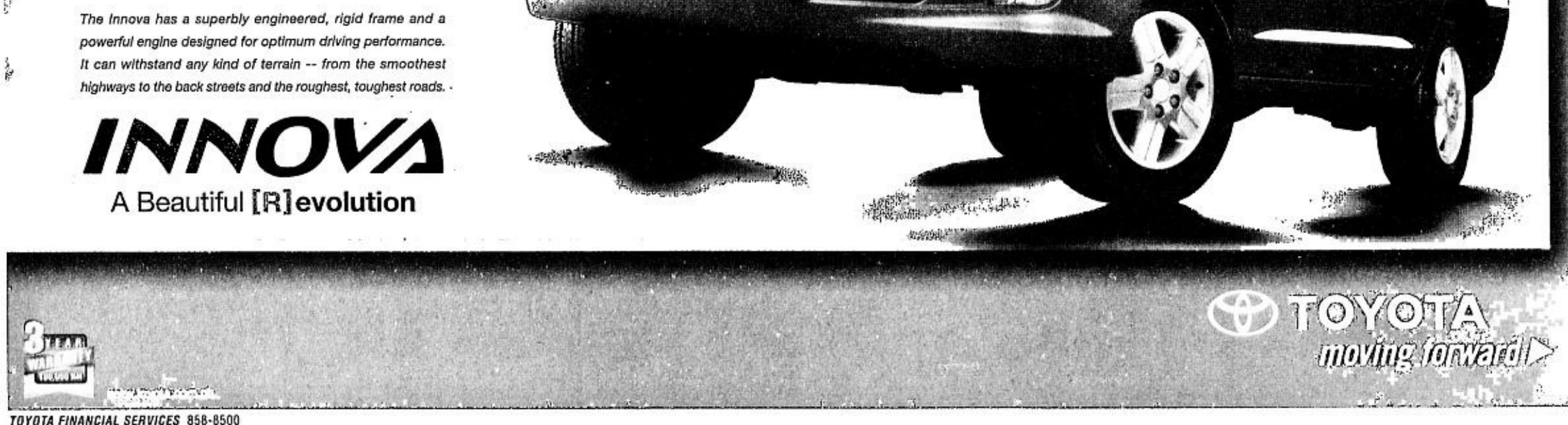
The name of the new federation, Atienza said, is still being deliberated on, although the group is leaning toward naming it as the "Unified Basketball of the Philippines."

The three-man panel, which Atienza said will be completed by the weekend, will help craft the federation's constitution and by-laws as well as review, verify and validate the list of members and elect a new set of officers.

The Fiba has given the panel until Sept. 30 to do that but Atienza said they are targetting Sept. 15 to accomplish everything.

With a report from Marc Anthony Reyes





MELCHOR Gile (right) of UST harasses UP's Nestor David who loses possession during yesterday's game. RYAN LIM

Falcons stun Warriors; UP outlasts UST

By Jasmine W. Payo

DRAWING INSPIRATION from an injured teammate, the Adamson Falcons forged an 89-84 overtime victory yesterday to foil the University of the East Warriors' bid for a semifinal bonus in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Ken Bono fueled the Falcons' offense in the extra period to finish with a game-high 29 points and 15 boards.

The Falcons' game turned around when Leo Canuday dislocated his elbow after a bad fall. The Adamson starting guard was rushed to Medical Center Manila with 1 minute 58 seconds remaining in regulation.

"When we lost Canuday, the team played like they were no longer afraid," said coach Leo Austria. "We dedicated our final minutes to Canuday."

Patrick Cabahug and Mike Yong also supplied key baskets for the Falcons, who ended an 18-game losing streak against the Warriors that dated back to 1999.

Only the Ateneo Eagles have claimed the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

Earlier, rookie Migs de Asis bailed out the University of the Philippines Maroons in the closing seconds for a 70-67 triumph over the Santo Tomas Tigers.

Japs Cuan's two consecutive turnovers in the final minute proved costly. The first miscue allowed De Asis to score on a layup that shattered a 67-67 deadlock. On the second Cuan error, De Asis made a free throw with only 5.6 ticks left.

The Tigers' loss turned out to be an anti-climactic follow-up to their stunning 88-80 overtime win over the Ateneo Eagles.

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	8	1
Univ of East	7	3
Adamson	5	5
Santo Tomas	5	6
Far Eastern	5	6
National	3	7
Univ of Phils	3	8

GAMES TOMORROW
(PhilSports Arena)
10 a.m.—UST vs NU (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Jrs)
2 p.m.—AdU vs FEU (Jrs)
4 p.m.—NU vs Ateneo

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

UP 70—Co 20, De Asis 12, Reyes 7, Serios 7, Cruz 7, Buyco 6, Sison 2, Cacha 2, Braganza 0, Sorongon 0.

UST 67—Cruz 18, Ababou 11, Evangelista 10, Cuan 6, Gile 5, Canlas 5, Taylor 3, Allera 3, Duncil 2,Dizon 2, Cortez 2.

Quarters: 26-15, 43-42, 52-53, 70-67

Second Game (Srs)

ADAMSON 89—Bono 29, Cabahug 22, Yong 8, Hugnatan 8, Poloyapoy 7, Canuday 6, Basilio 4, Agustin 3, Gonzalgo 2, Santos 0, Pacheco 0.

UE 84—Arellano 19, Borboran 14, Gregorio 13, Custodio 12, Espiritu 10, Lingganay 9, Canizares 4, Labagala 2, Thiele 1, Reyes 0, Llagas 0, Bandaying 0, Martinez 0.

Quarters: 15-11, 38-36, 56-57, 74-74, 89-84 (OT)

Generals trip Patriots for 5th win

DEFENDING CHAMPION EMILIO AGUINALDO COLLEGE rolled back La Salle-Dasmariñas, 72-66, yesterday to stretch its winning run to five in the fifth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (Ucaa) men's basketball tournament at the Olivarez College gym. Gester Ebuen led the Generals with 17 points but it was Ronjay Buenafe and Alain Musni who bailed EAC out of trouble after La Salle-Dasma had moved within 66-67. In other matches, Olivarez College (3-1) turned back Asian College of Science and Technology, 78-71, and St. Francis (3-2) walloped PSBA, 94-41.

Billiards truly the sport for Filipinos

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WHAT MORE CAN I SAY? THE recent lopsided victory of Efren "Bata" Reyes and his longtime friend and *kumpadre*, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, in the inaugural World Cup of Pool proved once again that the Philippines is second to none when it comes to playing pool and that billiards is the sport best suited for Filipinos.

Ranged against the best and the toughest, the amazing Reyes-Bustamante tandem swept the field, beating the American pair of Earl "The Pearl" Strickland and former US Open champion Rodney Morris, 13-5, in Sunday night's finals and pocketing the first prize of $60,000.

A total of 32 teams from 31 countries (host Britain fielded two squads), each represented by its top two players, took part in the $250,000 tournament held at the Newport Center in Newport, South Wales.

Why are they so good?

The soft-spoken Reyes, the most written-about athlete in Philippine billiards history, and the peerless Bustamante have what it takes to succeed: limitless patience, strong personal discipline and natural skills with the cue stick. And to think that both of them were born poor and were school dropouts!

With their latest victory, I feel fully compensated because my efforts did not go in vain after so many years of writing about their sport.

More importantly, the Reyes-Bustamante tandem did not disappoint their benefactors. Supported since 1985 by brothers Jose "Popit" and Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, Reyes and Bustamante are worthy of praise. They are good example to the Filipino youth and a source of pride for the Philippines.

Other Puyat Sports mainstays are also making waves. Most recently, Marlon Manalo finished a respectable second to former world champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany in the $2 million International Pool Tour Open 8-Ball Championship in Las Vegas.

Meanwhile, 2004 World Pool champion Alex Pagulayan won the BSCP National Championship held at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium a few weeks back.

"But it's a lonely life for these players, particularly Reyes and Bustamante, because they are always missing their families and friends due to their busy schedule abroad," said their manager, Rolando Vicente.

Toyota: Automotive Leader to Move Customers Forward

METROBANK 44

At the beginning of the year, Toyota worldwide shared an important goal with its customers-the desire to continuously work to get more out of life. The spirit of "there is no best, only better" is captured in Toyota's brand message, "Moving Forward" which was launched in January of this year. Toyota Motor Philippines takes this new campaign to heart and applied it in all the aspects of its operations-in sales, after sales and customer service. The country's number one automotive company continues to strive harder to move people forward with its vehicles.

Being a global campaign, Toyota in the Philippines and in other parts of the world share this same philosophy. This brand message is consistent with Toyota's dedication to kaizen, or continuous improvement. All customer touch points are encouraged to look at how they can be moving forward to help offer more to Toyota customers. Thus, Toyota identified its goals in order to lead better. This includes being number one in terms of product and customer service quality.

Toyota in the Philippines has been the consistent market leader for the past years. However, the company moves forward to strengthen its leadership position in the future. This is done by continuously challenging its targets. "In terms of market size, we project the market to grow from 97,000 units in 2005 to more than 100,000 units this year. We project Toyota's market share to increase from the record-high of 36.6 percent last year, to 37.2 percent this year," expressed Hiroshi Ito, Toyota's president. Toyota is slowly realizing its objectives. Although the market is down by 1 percent as of July, Toyota's sales grew by 7 percent compared to the same period last year, with 21, 153 units sold and 38.6 percent market share. Ito adds, "After the successful introduction of the RAV4, Altis, and Previa in the first semester, we are committed to further improve our vehicle line-up, to help our customers get more out of life. Within this year, we shall introduce two more vehicles that will definitely help the market celebrate the next stage in their lives."

Customer satisfaction is another important aspect of Toyota's operations, and is the embodiment of the moving forward philosophy. Last year, JD Power ranked Toyota models as No.1 in the Philippine Market in terms of Vehicle Initial Quality for both Mid Size and SUV categories. For two consecutive years, Toyota has likewise been rated by JD Power as No. 1 in Customer Satisfaction.

In addition to Customer Service Awards, Toyota further increased its efforts in enhancing customer satisfaction activities. The company launched this September its new Customer Assistance Center (CAC), which aims to "improve our operations further by actively listening to the Voice of the Customers and utilize their feedback to initiate Kaizen Activities. This will also further ensure Swift, Accurate and Sincere Handling of inquiries and concerns of the very heart of our business, our Customers," expressed the president.

ADVT.

The H-Bomb is now the Fireman for Gin Kings

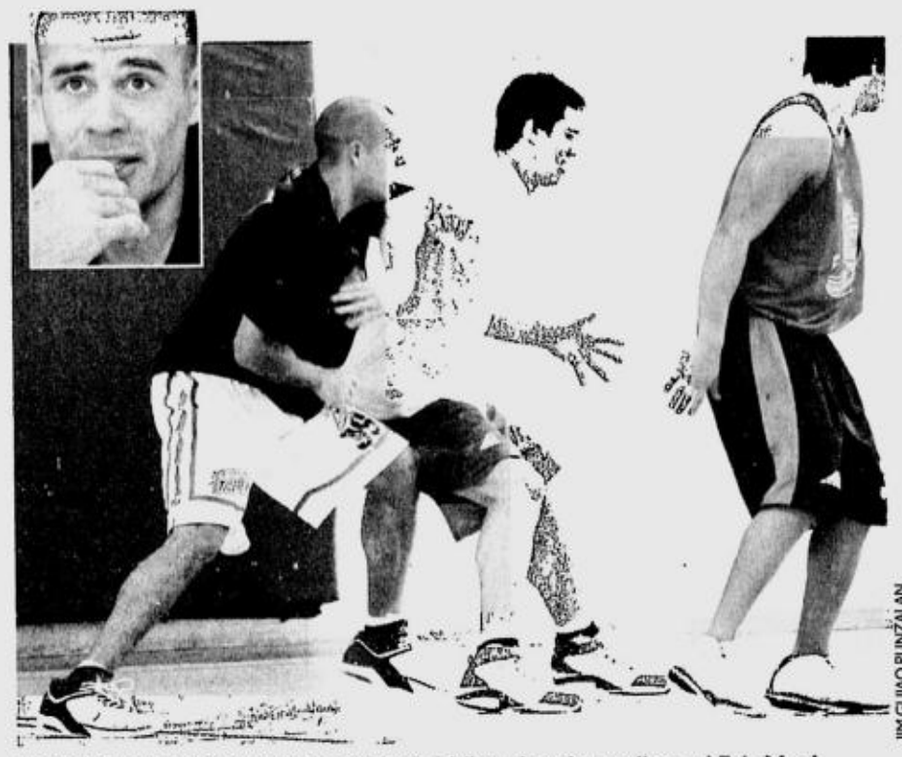
By Francis Ochoa

RUDY HATFIELD JOKES ABOUT HAVING some sort of an identity crisis nowadays. After joining a fireman's academy in the United States, he knows that television commentators are about to re-christen him with a new moniker.

"The Fireman's here," Hatfield, also known as the H-Bomb, said jokingly.

"Right now, I don't know yet just what I'll be doing for the team," he said, building on the pun. "Either I'll put out fires every time teams make a run at us or I'll be starting one as the H-Bomb."

The rest of the Barangay Ginebra Kings, though, have no problem figuring out who Hatfield is and what the newest addition to the PBA's most popular ballclub can do.



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Rudy Hatfield (inset) and guarding pal Eric Menk.

Hardworking player

"You saw it out there," said Kings coach Jong Uichico. "He's still the hardworking player he always was."

"He's a terrific passer, he's a great defender and a very vocal leader," said Erik Menk, Hatfield's closest friend on the team.

The 6-foot-3 Hatfield practiced with Ginebra for the second day yesterday at the Green Meadows gym, ending a hiatus from the game that started when he went into a two-year hibernation triggered by citizenship problems.

When his papers were finally fixed, he still did not show up, electing to enroll in a fireman's academy in Michigan.

In between, he joined pick-up games and got kicked around often like a worn-out soccer ball that he wondered if he still had what it takes "to play with the big boys."

"So when the offer came around, I decided to take it," said Hatfield, who agreed to a one-year deal with the Kings.

That, plus the chance to be reunited with Menk and the still-burning passion inside of him for the game had him rushing back to the country to join Ginebra.

"Basketball's been my entire life," Hatfield said. "It's tough trying to take away something you love so deeply out of your system, so here I am.

"Besides, me end Erik have some unfinished business together. It was a debacle the last time we teamed up. Hopefully, we can get something wonderful done this time around."

Former teammates

Hatfield and Menk were teammates at Tanduay Rhum in 2000 and failed to win a single championship. (They were also teammates in the 2002 Asian Games RP five that finished fourth after blowing a chance to reach the finals in the dying seconds against South Korea.—*Ed*)

Joining the Kings has it perks, Hatfield admitted.

"People will be finally cheering for me, for a change," he said, laughing. "Plus, it's a great team. Erik's here. Mark (Caguioa), for me, right now, can play in the NBA. We have nine players who can start for any team. It's just a matter of getting everybody to play together."

And where does that leave Hatfield?

"Trying to fit in," he said. "I'm also a loud mouth so I'll probably be doing a lot of screaming just to make sure everybody stays focused. But I'll also be the first to appreciate you for a job well done."

Hatfield, who last played for Coca-Cola, brings to the Kings career averages of 13.1 points and 10.7 rebounds per game. But the 29-year-old forward knows exactly what department he'll lead the Kings in.

"Floorburns. That's my major contribution."

In one play during scrimmage, Rafi Reavis squared at the post and launched a semi-hook that looked off line. Even before the shot hit the rim, Hatfield squirmed past Menk and the beefy Rommel Adducul, jumped high just as the ball caromed off the back rim and tipped in the miss.

Menk shook his head and from one corner of the gym, the normally stoic Uichico allowed himself a little smile.

Flame-killing fireman or fire-starting H-Bomb, it doesn't matter. Hatfield's back and the Kings are ready to become a royal pain in the neck for the other teams.

NC 'Last 4' clash in no-bearing tilts

THE OTHER "FINAL Four," or more precisely the "Last Four," mix it up in the penultimate elimination playing date today of the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Host St. Benilde (2-11) meets Jose Rizal (4-9) at 2 p.m., while Perpetual Help (4-9) battles San Sebastian (4-9) at 4.

Final Four qualifiers San Beda, Letran, Philippine Christian and Mapua take a rest and will see action on Wednesday, when the Lions clash with the Knights and the Dolphins collide with the Cardinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

STANDINGS	W	L
*San Beda	12	1
*Letran	10	3
*PCU	9	4
*Mapua	7	6
SSC-R	4	9
Perpetual	4	9
Jose Rizal	4	9
St. Benilde	2	11

*—gains semifinals

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
12 noon—Jose Rizal vs. St. Benilde (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—Perpetual Help vs. SSC-R (Srs/Jrs)

The Lions are assured of the first twice-to-beat incentive and the No. 1 position after winning over Mapua, 73-56, Wednesday.

The loss dumped the Cardinals to No. 4, which means they will face the Lions again in the semifinals.

While the Knights and the Dolphins are sure to collide in the other Final Four pairing, they are still fighting for the No. 2 slot.

To grab No. 2, Letran has to beat San Beda Wednesday. A Letran loss and PCU victory over Mapua would pave the way for a Knights-Dolphins playoff for the second twice-to-beat bonus. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

HARVEY Carey stuffs it in. This would be worth 3 points if the PBA board okays Eala's proposal.

Commish wants a 3-point dunk

By June Navarro

DOWN BY TWO POINTS WITH A FRACTION of a second left, Paolo Mendoza tosses the ball from atop the free-throw line and Kelly Williams catches it in mid-air for a rim-rattling slam.

Sta. Lucia Realty wins the game by a point.

This is just one of the scenarios the commissioner of the Philippine Basketball Association is offering when he recommends a new rule known as the "three-point dunk" to the league's board.

Commissioner Noli Eala will bring the new scoring scheme to the board for approval before the 32nd season of the league kicks off with an all-Filipino conference on Oct. 1.

In his proposal, a dunk will be given three points if: No. 1, it is scored by a player who takes off six feet away from the basket; No. 2, a player finishes a fast-break play off a steal in the backcourt; or No. 3 a player completes a catch-and-dunk situation in mid-air.

"I'm really pushing hard for it because I think it will be really good for the league," Eala told the INQUIRER. "It will motivate players and showcase more talents while it gives the fans a sight to watch and enjoy.

"It will distinguish us from many leagues, even the NBA (National Basketball Association)."

But some of the league's bigwigs have also aired their apprehensions about the proposed rule.

"The PBA will become a circus once the three-point dunk gets the nod of the board," said a league governor who requested anonymity.

Even RP Team coach Chot Reyes has reservations.

"That rule will defeat the purpose of training more shooters for the national team. You cannot score on dunks in international tournaments all the time," said Reyes.

"I hope the board will hear my plea," said Eala. "Let's try it for one conference. If it doesn't work, let's scrap it," said Eala.

SPORTSWATCH

Pasay Stagfighter race starts today

MEMBERS OF THE PASAY COCKPIT COCKERS ASSOCIATION (PCCA) open their bid for the Stagfighter of the Year plum via a 5-stag derby today at Pasay City Cockpit. More than 80 fights, to be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, spice up Pasay Cockpit's stag season opener. Seeing action are new PCCA members Tony Antonio and Gerry Ramos, Lito Roque, Pol Estrellado, Jake Macasaet, Dodie Villarubio, ASF Farms, Madlambayan Brothers, Jet and Joel Fernando, Bong Garcia, Ramon Mancenares, boxing hero Manny Pacquiao, Rey Briones, Ric de Guzman, Jack Chung, Frankie Uy and Pepito Ngo, among others. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

100 vying in SJC anniversary derby

SAN JUAN COLISEUM WILL CELEBRATE THE FIRST YEAR OF ITS REopening on Sept. 11 and 13 by staging the SJC 6-Stag Derby with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. More than 100 participants have already signed for this grand battle of popular cockers and breeders. The champions stand to receive P1.5 million. Screening of stags, eight to 10 months old, is ongoing with Mimi Itchon and Edwin Aranez as official screeners. Meanwhile, nine participants shared the title in the Rambulan 5-Stag Derby" last Wednesday: Tonton Uy (VL Solcag), Lito Uy (Ghostfighter), Boy Tuazon (Melchor 4), Romy Manalansan (Tokwing), Dean Joson (SJC Oct. 30), Raul Ebeo (Cyberfriends), Sam Mendoza (Sept. 25 SJC), Mayor Buddy Dunca (Labrador) and the Top Man Bird entry.

OFFICIAL BALL: Anil Buxani (second from left), director of Sonia Trading, turns over to NBC (National Basketball Conference) secretary general Tito Palma a Molten ball, official basketball of the NBC's Second Conference starting Sept. 9. Also in picture are Carol Lobaton (left), Sonia Trading sales-marketing manager, and Michelle Daclan, NBC operations head.

Bernardino, Aussie share Palau lead

KOROR, PALAU—UNITED States chess master Marlon Bernardino Jr. and lone Australian entry Gary Bekker scored 1.5 points each Thursday to share the early lead in the first Palau invitational chess meet at the Palau Royal Resort.

The 29-year-old Bernardino, a Manila based sportswriter, bested OFW Jose Omega in 37 moves of a Reti Opening while Bekker, the Oceania Fide president, beat Menandro Manuel, another OFW here from Marilao, Bulacan, in 55 moves of a King's Indian Defense.

The 10-man field will play in a round-robin format.

Paul Spiller of New Zealand was the lone winner yesterday, winning over Omega. Bekker and Bernardino split the point in their Queen's Pawn Game while Gene Pastrana and Cyril Montel Jr. also halved the point.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Summit Force (5), Golden Issue (3), Be Dazzling (4), Morning Glory (6)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Kalmia (2), Ruah (6), Ginger Candy (3), Boomberg (4)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Afternoon Delight (1), Leica N' Raven (7), Kang Kang (9), Mogul (8), High Fashion (6)
Race 4—Qrt/Tri)—Scud Missile (8), Refreshing (1), Speed Admiral (3), Demolition Jack (4)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Don't Tell Ella (1), Simply Angie (3), Virginia (5), Chance For Us (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Somos O No Somos (6), Sugar Ray (1), Virgin Island (4), Do It David (3), Aim And Fire (2)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Step On The Gas (4), Kim Possible (7), Silent Operator (3), Ayan Na Ko/Prince Richard (5)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (6), Graceful Conqueror (2), Latin Music (7), Coat Of Arms (1)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Thor Patria (2), Remember Me/Mighty Mare (3), Arctic Desert (9), District Three (1), El Cubano Coskee (7), Angel Of Light (8)

P1-M poker Saturday

THE SECOND LEG OF THE Million-Peso Hold'em Poker Championship resumes this Saturday at the Casino Filipino Angeles City.

Winners of this satellite tournament will earn berths in the grand finals slated Dec. 6 and 17 at the Casino Filipino Pavilion Manila.

The poker circuit is a joint project of Philippine Poker Tour and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor). The biggest non-wager poker skills tournament offers P3 million worth of prizes at stake.

The grand finals winner will get P1 million worth of prizes and the Champion's Bracelet.

PPT chair Rey Gamboa noted the increasing number of poker tournament enthusiasts who are joining satellite meets.

For details, log on to www.PhilippinePokerTour.com or call the secretariat (c/o Cindy) at 817-9092 or 812-0153.

Federer, Nadal hammer rivals; Mauresmo scores

NEW YORK—WORLD NUMBER ONE ROGER Federer and chief rival Rafael Nadal began their march toward a US Open collision with straight-set victories Wednesday.

Federer hammered Wang Yeu-tzuoo of Taiwan, 6-4, 6-1, 6-0, in first-round action on Arthur Ashe Stadium, while second seed Nadal crushed former finalist Mark Philippoussis, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

The duo have contested the last two grand slam finals and are favorites to meet in the championship match on Sept. 10.

Needing just 100 minutes to advance, Australian Open and Wimbledon champion Federer said it was too early to think about a possible showdown against Nadal in the finals.

"I think the draws for both of us are pretty good but the other 126 players will try to not make it happen," said Federer, who lost to Nadal in the French Open final but beat him at Wimbledon.

"I don't think of playing him right now, not at all, because it's just too long of a road. Not only I have to get there, but him as well."

A day after rain wiped out nearly all of the scheduled matches, large crowds at Flushing Meadows welcomed the tennis despite gloomy skies and the constant threat of rain.

In the women's draw, top seed Amelie Mauresmo completed her rain-suspended first-round match with Kristina Barrois, defeating the 131st-ranked German qualifier, 6-1 7-5.

MARIA Sharapova: Good for 10 aces. AFP

Third seed Maria Sharapova blasted 10 aces and never lost her serve to crush 17-year-old Michaella Krajicek, 6-3, 6-0, in just 59 minutes.

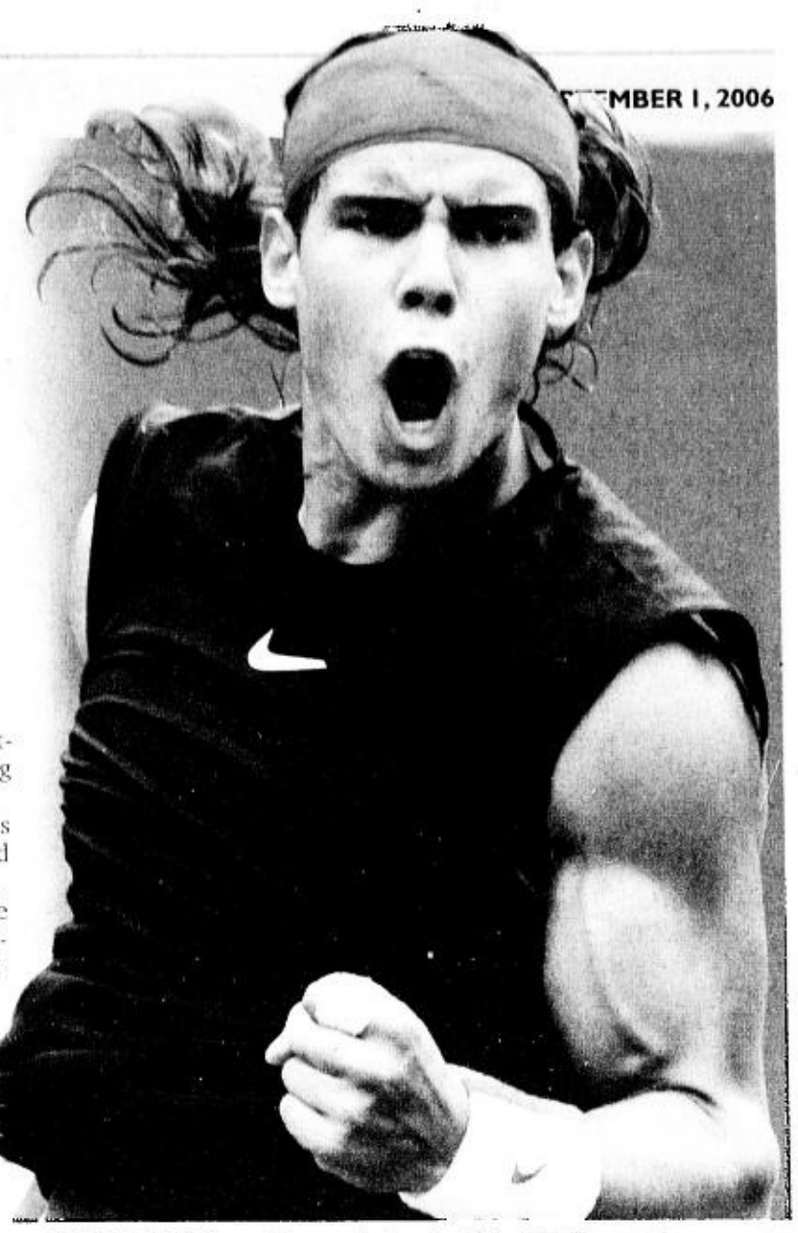
Also advancing to the second round were Andy Roddick, Lleyton Hewitt and David Nalbandian on the men's side, and Martina Hingis and Serena Williams on the women's.

Federer, gunning for his third straight US Open crown, hit seven aces and kept Wang off balance by winning 90 percent of his first serve points. Nadal wasted little time hitting his stride, pumping his fist and roaring on each key point against 1998 runner-up Philippoussis, a hard-serving wildcard entry from Australia.

Marat Safin, the 2000 champion, set up a second-round showdown with Nalbandian after a four-set victory over Czech Robin Vik.

Argentine Nalbandian, the fo urth seed, was pushed to the limit by German Michael Berrer before prevailing 6-2 in the fifth.

Australian Hewitt, Safin's successor as champion in 2001, eased to a 7-5 6-4 6-3 win over Spaniard Albert Montanes. *Reuters*



RAFAEL Nadal reacts to a point against Mark Philippoussis. AFP

Agassi gets cortisone injection after match

NEW YORK—ANDRE AGASSI'S first-round victory at the US Open was painful than anyone realized.

Bothered by a bad back most of this season, Agassi said he could barely stand an hour after his match ended past midnight early Tuesday, and went to the hospital for a cortisone injection after waking up.

"The inflammation was pretty bad, and I just don't want to go off the court limping," Agassi told USA Network Wednesday. "It's not what I want to do."

The 36-year-old Agassi, who will retire after the US Open, was out at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Wednesday for some practice. He plays his second-round match against eighth-seeded Marcos Baghdatis Thursday night.

"He's going to leave it out there. I've never had a cortisone shot, but from what I've heard, you feel like you can run through walls," Andy Roddick said. *AP*

Roddick denies romantic link with Sharapova

NEW YORK—ANDY RODDICK was not in party mood after marking his 24th birthday with victory at the US Open, trying to put to rest rumors he is romantically linked with Russian Maria Sharapova.

"We're not dating," he told reporters after his 6-3 7-6 6-3 win over Danish qualifier Kristian Pless.

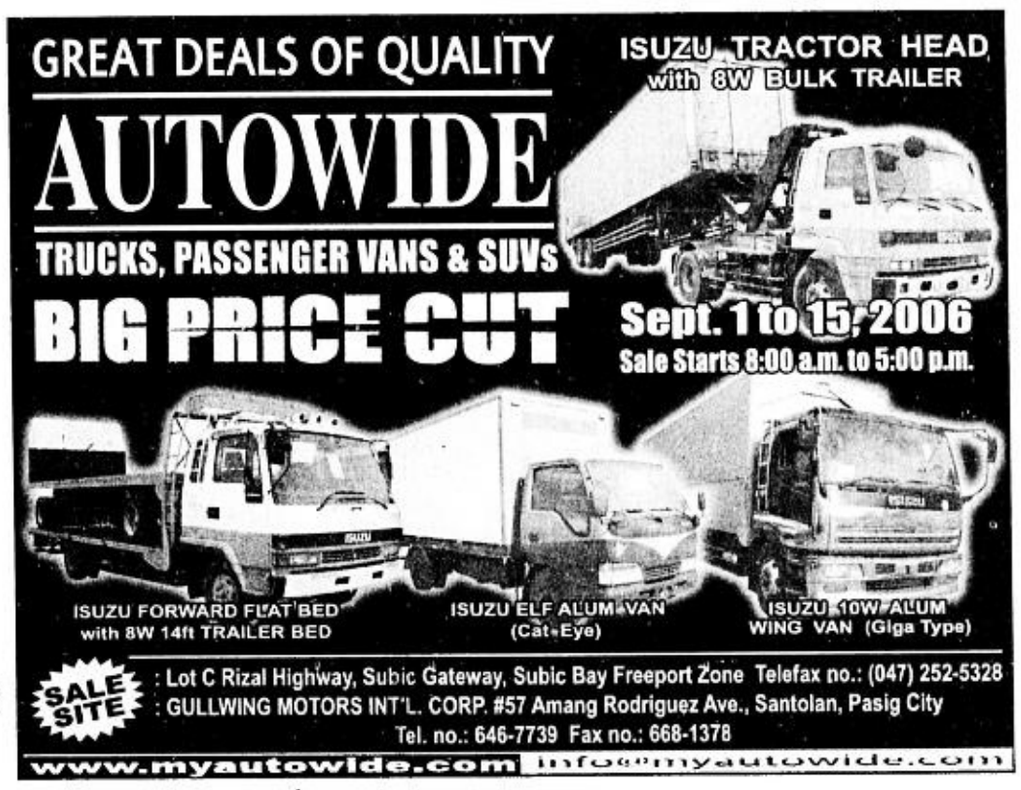
"I've said it a million times already, but you guys refuse to write it. You know, we're friendly. We're in the same places. I think she's a great girl. You know, we'll talk. That's about it."

Roddick, the 2003 US Open champion and former world number one, said life on the tennis tour made relationships difficult to manage.

"It's a little bit of a stretch when we both travel. She's actually busier than I am. That's a little bit of a stretch. But, you know, I think she's great. I can't say enough nice things about her," he said.

Sharapova, who beat Michaella Krajicek of the Netherlands, 6-3 6-0, on Wednesday, was also quizzed by reporters about Roddick.

"You know what, I really don't talk about my personal life," she said. "When two tennis players know each other and are friends, and are known around the world, there's people are gonna talk. That's exactly what's happening." *Reuters*



Iverson sued for $2.4M

HAMPTON, VIRGINIA—NBA star Allen Iverson is being sued for $2.4 million amid claims he helped hire a security team accused of attacking four people at a Hampton nightclub last year.

The four plaintiffs say they were assaulted by members of "The Horsemen," a security team they say was hired by Iverson and Gary Moore, Iverson's business manager and president of CrossOver Promotions Inc., to control the crowd during a July 9, 2005 event at Crabbers Restaurant and Sports Lounge, according to papers filed on Monday in Hampton Circuit Court.

According to the lawsuit, Iverson, Moore and Crossover Promotions were negligent by hiring "dangerous individuals" who had shown a propensity toward unprovoked violence. Iverson, Moore and security team members all are named in the four lawsuits—one on behalf of each plaintiff. Each has requested a jury trial and $600,000 in damages, plus legal fees. *AP*

US takes on Greece; Argentina vs Spain

SAITAMA—A UNITED States team eschewing the trash-talking swagger of previous incarnations find themselves two wins away from the promised land.

The tournament favorites take on Greece in Friday's semifinals of the world basketball championship, with either Argentina or Spain to provide the final hurdle.

All four teams have come through the tournament with a perfect 7-0 record but the onus is on the US team's big-name players to end a six-year major title drought in Japan.

LEBRON James during practice for the United States' semifinal game against Greece. REUTERS

The Americans finished an embarrassing sixth at the last world championships in Indianapolis and took bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympics. "We have to bring our A-plus game," co-captain LeBron James told reporters. "It's win or go home—win or die."

James, careful to avoid sounding brash, warned against over-confidence in Friday's clash with European champions Greece.

"It will be a very competitive game against Greece," he said. "Greece are a team that's been together a long time. We'll have to maintain focus and take care of business."

In reality, the depth of the US squad points to another 20-point blowout before the Americans face their first genuine challenge in Sunday's final.

Despite having long since ditched the "Dream Team" label, Carmelo Anthony warned that the US were still the team to beat.

"We control our destiny," said the Denver Nuggets forward, who has become the team's go-to player during the tournament. "If we go out there and play good, the sky's the limit."

The US will need to improve on their performance in their 85-65 quarter-final win over Germany when they shot just 38 percent from the floor.

But even allowing for more woeful outside shooting, the Americans' superior athleticism and open court speed is likely to overpower Greece's physical zone defense.

Greece may lack the weapons to take advantage but Argentina and a sharp-shooting Spanish team—both winning their games by an average of 25 points—are capable of an upset. Olympic champions Argentina lost twice to Spain in championship warm-up games but Argentine coach Sergio Hernandez shrugged of the significance of those defeats.

"I don't care—that was practice," he said. "This is different. Both teams play similar games with smart players. It will be a great, great game."

A red-hot Spain, led by Memphis Grizzlies forward Pau Gasol, are on a 16-game winning streak and Argentina's floor leader Manu Ginobili is under no illusions about what it will take to win. "We have to play a perfect game," he said. *Reuters*

GAMES TODAY: 3:30 p.m.—Greece vs USA (Solar Sports); 8 p.m.—Spain vs Argentina (Solar Sports, RPN-9)

Tyson just a freak show on Vegas

LAS VEGAS—SOME CROWded around the ring with cell phone cameras in hand. Others sat at a bar not 20 feet (6 meters) away drinking beer. Still others ignored it all and smoked cigarettes and played slot machines.

Mike Tyson used to put on displays. On this day, he was just on display.

Down the street, tourists watched lions and dolphins between breaks at the slot machines. In the Aladdin hotel, they didn't need to move from their seats at the bar to see another curiosity in a makeshift ring.

TYSON: I truly hate fighting.

The former baddest man on the planet has been reduced to just another freak show on the Las Vegas Strip.

The signs said he was in training, and that was enough to lure a few hundred people to the makeshift ring set up just outside the casino's buffet restaurant.

Tyson once made $35 million for one fight and more than $300M in his career before blowing it all. Now he's a casino sideshow, trying to make a few bucks the only way he knows how in a sport he no longer can stand.

"I truly hate fighting," Tyson said. "I've got a bad taste in my mouth."

On this day, Tyson is contrite, seemingly embarrassed his life has been reduced to this. He says he's uncomfortable going out in front of people masquerading as the fighter he once was when he knows it's all really a charade.

But he owes his creditors millions, needs the money desperately, and took up the casino on its offer to make some. So he gets into the ring to throw a few punches at the mitts of Australian trainer Jeff Fenech as tourists take pictures. *AP*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B 1

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■ EPCIB subsidiary accepts SM offer /B8

BUSINESS

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Gains in agri, services boost economy by 5.5%

GNP also expanded 6.6% year-on-year in Q2

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY GREW 5.5 PERcent in the second quarter of the year, showing strong resiliency despite the dampening effects of high oil prices.

Robust exports and the increase in agriculture production also served to fuel the country's growth during the period.

The annual gross domestic product's growth rate of 5.5 percent in the second quarter was within the government's target range of 5.3 to 5.8 percent, and slightly higher than the 5.4 percent recorded in the same period of last year.

"The GDP growth shows that the Philippines is no longer a laggard in

GAINS/ B2

INDICATORS

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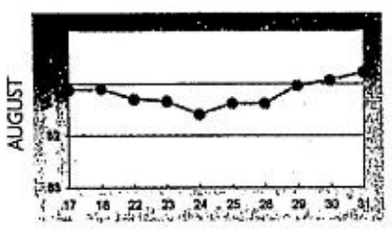

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.795 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 31, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.67% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.67 percent higher due to rising expectations the country will hit its economic growth targets for this year, dealers said.

SHARES/ B5

METROBANK 44

Providing quality service to top corporations

ORIX METRO Leasing and Finance Corporation has been serving the financial and operating leasing needs of top corporations, as well as entrepreneurs, for almost three decades now.

ORIX METRO is a joint venture between two giants: Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company and ORIX Corporation of Japan. ORIX Corporation is listed in three international stock exchanges including the New York Stock Exchange. It has resources of US$61.65 billion and net income of US$1.42 billion as of last fiscal year.

ORIX METRO offers financial leases, operating leases, sale and leaseback and lease syndication, as well as mortgage loans and receivables financing. The operating leases of vehicles and equipment are normally booked through its wholly owned subsidiaries: ORIX Rental Corporation and ORIX Auto Leasing Philippines Corporation. The latter is now the largest car rental company in the Philippines which boasts of its full maintenance operating leases through its car care center, which is equipped with the most modern and specialized equipment.

"When you lease a car from us and avail of our full maintenance lease, you don't have to worry about anything" said Eduardo R. Alvarez, president and CEO of ORIX METRO. "We take care of everything, and if there is a problem, you just call us anywhere you are, and we will bring you a replacement car right away."

The common types of equipment being financed by ORIX METRO other than all types of transportation equipment are: office equipment, industrial equipment, manufacturing equipment, medical and dental equipment, heavy equipment and telecommunications equipment. The company is also engaged in real estate leases through another wholly owned subsidiary, COLF International Trading & Development Corporation.

Alvarez said that while financial leases account for bulk of the company's portfolio, ORIX METRO is also engaged in direct loans, particularly mortgage loans in the countryside. It has twenty branches strategically located nationwide. Such mortgage loans for small and medium businesses in the countryside are ORIX METRO's modest way of helping in the country's economic development.

ORIX METRO has also a tie-up with all the auctioneers in Subic and Malinta as the principal financier for trucks and equipment.

The company was recently awarded by Land Bank of the Philippines as the "Most Active Countryside Partner in Providing Developmental Linkages" for ORIX METRO's extensive coverage of business in the countryside.

"We will continue our competitive and excellent service to our over 6,000 clients nationwide" Alvarez said. "In our company, we don't have standard terms and conditions on our transactions. We tailor-fit our product's terms and conditions to what the client wants."

Alvarez considers its partnership with banking giant Metrobank as its major advantage in sustaining its continuous growth over the years through the referrals from the 547 branches of Metrobank nationwide. As of the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2005, ORIX METRO's total resources expanded by 23.36 percent to P4.0 billion. Net Income After Tax reached P113.8 million for a 23.5 percent increase, while Return on Average Equity was a remarkable 16.06 percent.

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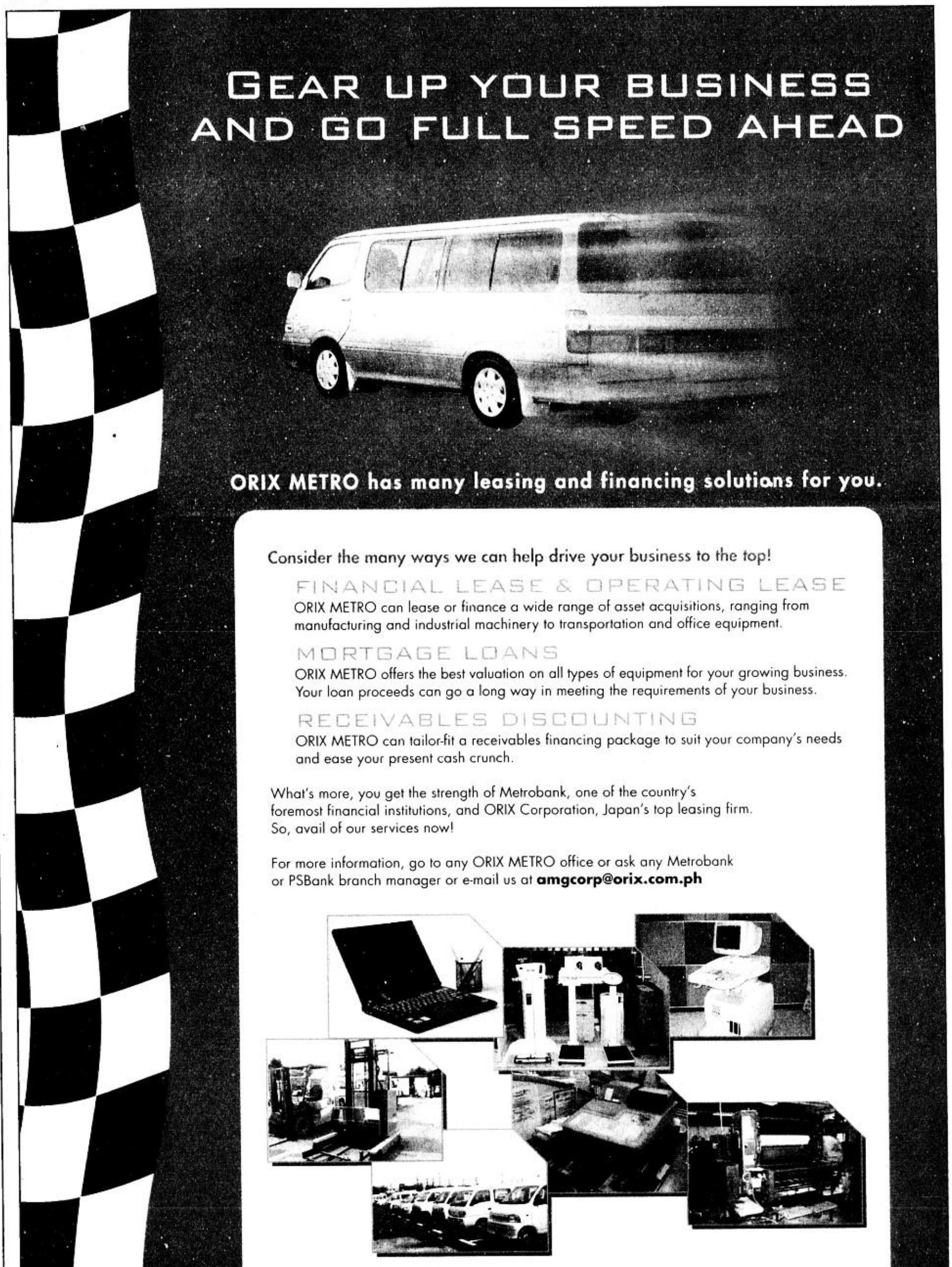

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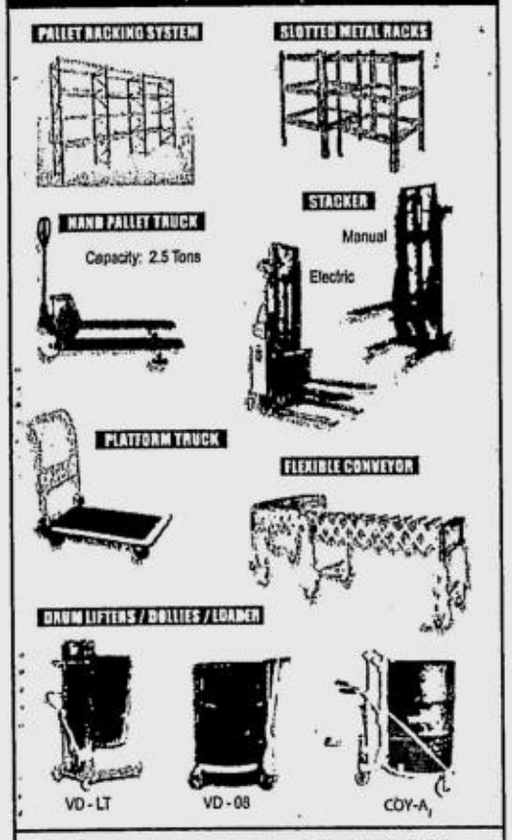

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The missing Elizalde

RADIO STATION OWNER FRED ELIZAlde was uncharacteristically absent in yesterday afternoon's shareholders meeting of Manila Broadcasting Co.

The 66-year-old Spanish-Filipino was seen last week checking into the St..Luke's Hospital in Quezon City to undergo an extensive checkup to determine what actually ails the chair of the country's oldest broadcasting company in the country.

Because of Elizalde's absence, vice chair and corporate secretary Hadrian Arroyo presided over the meeting, held at the company's Star City Complex on Roxas Boulevard.

According to the industry grapevine, with Elizalde's failing health, his third

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

wife, ballerina Lisa Macuja, is now consulting with Elizalde's lawyer, Gabriel Villareal, about the possibility of instituting guardianship proceedings.

Macuja, 41, married Elizalde in 1997, after signing an "antenuptial property agreement," where the two agreed to join their respective properties into a conjugal regime.

Macuja has two children with Elizalde, who, in turn, has four sons, one of whom passed away last month, from a previous marriage.

According to the grapevine, the late son's estate proceedings have now been complicated with the elder Elizalde's worsening health condition.

The Elizalde sons' shareholdings in the radio station, listed as equivalent to a 17.36-percent stake, are held by a trust fund, with the law firm Romulo Mabanta as trustee.

Likewise, the elder Elizalde's shareholdings are all held by various trust funds that have executed voting trusts in favor of the Elizalde patriarch.

Legal warts

COCKTALES suffered a Jose Anselmo Cadiz-type of misreading a Supreme Court decision, when this column reported Wednesday that the justices had awarded a total of P2 million extra fees to the three lawyers of Dermclinic CEO Vinson Pineda.

Instead, the reported monetary judgment, imposed by the Court of Appeals, was ordered deleted by the Supreme Court.

According to the Second Division, even without the CA award, the three—Clodualdo de Jesus, Carlos Ambrosio, and Emmanuel Mariano—"had already been adequately been paid" with the P1.12 million fees, plus the P5.8 million in other fees and expenses, given by Pineda.

Pineda sued the lawyers, who had represented him in the successful annulment case filed by Pineda's wife, after the three demanded P50 million, representing a 10-percent share of the doctor's conjugal half, in additional legal fees.

"The vernacular has a word for it: *nagsasamantala*," a clearly bothered ponente, Justice Renato Corona, said of his younger compañeros.

Money-go-round

• THE Fiesta Casino in Poro Point, which opened only in late April, continues to exceed management expectations, according to its U.S. owner, Thunderbird Resorts.

The Poro Point operation has 158 table positions and 120 slot machines, while Thunderbird's first local operation, at the EastRidge golf course in Angono, is slightly bigger at 165 tables and 128 machines.

The Eastridge venture also operates a 43-suite hotel. Thunderbird's Philippine chair is none other than Ramos-era Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo.

• THE Bangko Sentral wants to lease two planes to transport currency and gold among the bank branches. Indicative price for a one-year lease: P23.3 million for a small aircraft and P21.4 million for a bigger one.

Bids and awards committee chair Juan de Zuñiga Jr. is the man to see.

Heard through the grapevine

DESPITE, or probably because of, his Manila Times experience, real estate developer Noel "Toti" Cariño is launching his own newspaper, this time a business daily tentatively named Philippine Chronicle, to compete with Businessworld and Business Mirror.

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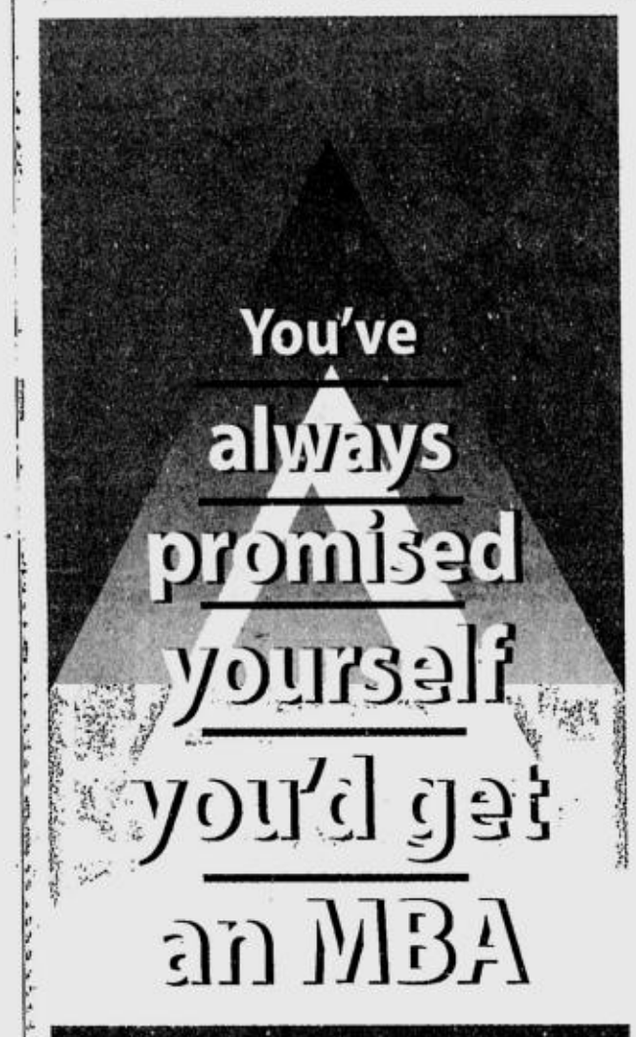

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At 50.79, peso shows no sign of slowing

Currency even seen to hit 49.25 within '06

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY RALLIED TO A FOUR-year high of 50.795 against the US dollar as investors scrambled for local government bonds in anticipation of a credit rating upgrade early next year.

Propped up by reports on the country's strong economic showing in the first semester, the local currency climbed past 50.88:$1, the previous peak posted last March.

"This is a breakout," said Equitable PCI Bank currency strategist Marcelo Ayes

He said that if the momentum holds up, the local currency may test the next major barrier of 49.25 within the year.

The local currency hit an intra-day high of 50.77 and a low of 50.91 before closing at 50.795 against the US dollar. It gained another 15 centavos from Wednesday's finish of 50.945 against the greenback.

It was the peso's strongest performance since July 26, 2002 when the local currency hit 50.695 to the dollar.

"The investment flows are improving," Ayes said. "People are looking at positive yields from peso bonds. An upgrade (in sovereign credit rating) by the first quarter is imminent."

Other currency traders said the peso would have appreciated further if not for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' sporadic intervention.

"The BSP was buying dollars at 50.80 levels to smoothen the fluctuation," one trader said.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the peso's appreciation should not weigh down the robust performance of the export sector, whose earnings were growing by double-digit levels despite the local currency's gains in the past few months.

"The strong exchange rate no longer means weak exports," Guinigundo said, noting that the gains are market driven. "The linkages now are not so strong. We continue to have strong inflows from [overseas Filipino workers], portfolio investments and equity."

Yesterday, the story that came out in the INQUIRER's business section on page B1 erroneously stated that the peso on Wednesday closed at its highest level against the US dollar since March. The exchange rate of P50.945 to the dollar was actually the highest finish of the local currency in four years.

Gains in agri, services boost . . . From page B1

Asia," said Romulo Neri, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

The country's economic growth is already higher than the average growth of Southeast Asian economies, he added.

Gross domestic product, the most common tool for measuring an economy's performance, is the sum of the values of goods and services produced within an economy in a given period.

With GDP growing by 5.7 percent in the first quarter, the second-quarter GDP growth brought the first half average to 5.6 percent—well on track to meet the full-year growth target of between 5.5 and 6.1 percent.

Also, the country's gross national product (GNP), which includes net factor income from abroad such as remittances from overseas Filipino workers, grew 6.6 percent in the second quarter. This was better than the 5.8 percent posted in the same period last year.

The country's GDP growth in the second quarter was higher than Indonesia's 5.1 percent, Taiwan's 4.6 percent, Hong Kong's 5.2 percent, South Korea's 5.3 percent, and the projected 4.8 percent and 5.5 percent for Thailand and Malaysia, respectively.

Economic officials yesterday reported that the latest GDP growth rate was based on the expansion of the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, industry and services sectors.

Dennis Arroyo, Neda director for policy and planning, said the fact that growth came largely from the agriculture sector was helpful in achieving the goal of poverty reduction, given that many poor families are found in rural areas.

The Neda also said that the strong inflows of remittances from OFWs in the second quarter would be a source of growth in the second half. This is because the money sent by the OFWs are expected to be used for consumption or investments by their families.

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The Achievers & Leaders Seminar marks a milestone on its 8th run as it brings you Denis Waitley, the international bestselling author of The Seeds of Greatness, Empires of The Mind, The New Dynamics of Goal Setting, The Psychology of Winning and more than 10 other books. An acknowledged authority on self-development, high performance, and individual productivity, he was the psychology guru to the US Olympic team, and has counseled heads of state, Fortune 500 top executives, and leaders in various fields. With over 10 million audio programs sold in 14 languages, Denis Waitley's CD album, The Psychology of Winning, is still the all-time best selling program on self-mastery.

Denis is recognized as a world class speaker and author and has traveled the globe sharing success ideas and strategies to thousands of companies in the past 25 years.

In recent months, Denis Waitley has continued delivering his legendary mental training for world-class athletes and has also been on the road telling the Michael Dell story, gained from his personal experience of the Dell organization, one of the most successful business models in recent history.

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Francis Kong is a sought-after motivational speaker who, in the past 5 years, has been featured in more than 1,500 major conventions both here and abroad. His Authentic Leadership module at the 6th Achievers & Leaders Seminar won the Gold Quill 2006 Award of Merit for Public Speech Category.

LEADING PEOPLE FROM SUCCESS TO SIGNIFICANCE
Butch Jimenez
Shares stories and insights on how he set and achieved his goals and those of his team and how they continue to break records.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP
Dylan Wilk
Leaving a life of comfort and luxury to help build a movement for nation-building, he shares what he saw in the Filipino that can make every one a hero.

ACHIEVING YOUR MOST CHALLENGING GOALS
Roselle Ambubuyog
Totally blind from age six, Roselle overcame her handicap and graduated on top in all her academic levels – now helping in finding screen access solutions for the blind & partially-sighted on mobile devices. How she achieved all that she will share.

Rave Reviews about the past Achievers & Leaders Seminar
"We loved it! When is the next one so I can send my entire team!" - Stephen Misa, Microsoft Philippines
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"Best seminar I have ever attended!" - Pedro Luis Prulue III
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Call 849-6977 and ask for Cristy or Elvie or text 0919-3145412

Christmas decor exporters upbeat

By Ronnel W. Domingo

HOLIDAY DÉCOR EXPORTERS EXPECT TO record $65 million in sales by the end of the year, 15.6 percent more than the $56.2 million posted in 2005.

Marlane C. Villa-Real, president of the Christmas Décor Producers and Exporters Association of the Philippines, said Thursday the estimate was still conservative considering the positive feedback from foreign buyers as well as increasing global demand.

The industry comprises mostly small and medium-scale enterprises and CD-PEAP groups 70 of at least 100 direct producers. Villa-Real said players number about 2,000 nationwide, including subcontractors.

On Thursday, CD-PEAP kicked off the four-day Ang Galing! Exporters' Fair at the Market! Market! mall of the Bonifacio Global City.

"(But we are also) actively participating in trade fairs abroad to further push our products, especially in the United States and Europe where the bulk of our export sales come from," Villa-Real said.

She said there was a concerted effort among industry players to diversify their markets following a slump between 2001 and 2004 due to stiff competition from Chinese exporters.

"We made efforts to strengthen our foothold in the European market and we ventured into markets that we have not tried before like the Middle East, Australia, South America and Eastern Europe," Villa-Real said.

Christmas-related décor and items account for four-fifths of the industry's revenues although other holidays also provide business opportunities, like Valentine's Day, Easter and Halloween.

Still, CDPEAP appealed to the government to renew support for exporters, especially in terms of helping firms take part in international trade fairs beyond organizing a delegation.

Villa-Real said what exporters needed most was financial help in covering the cost of exhibiting in global shows, but this kind of support from the government has dried up.

She added that companies now get help from the Canadian government through the Canadian International Development Agency's Private Enterprise Accelerated Resource Linkage 2 project.

Pearl 2 helps develop enterprises to create jobs that would hopefully lead to decreased poverty.

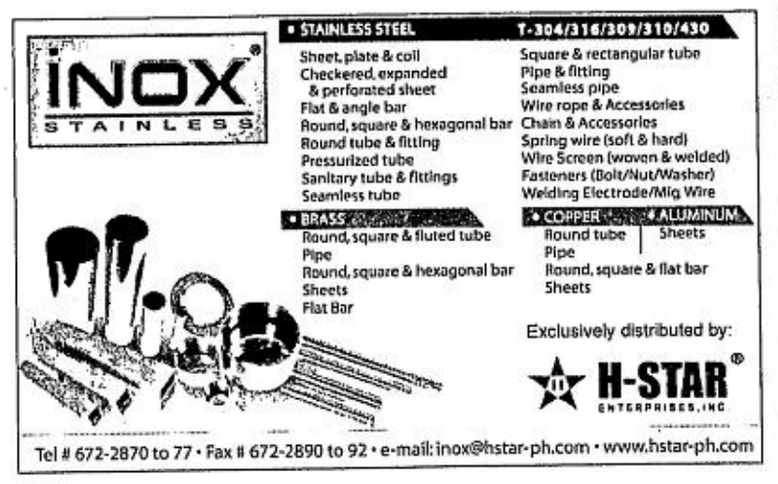
Villa-Real said the dearth of government support has also resulted in the migration of designers who have helped push the industry's world competitiveness.

"Some of them have gone to China—our greatest competitor—because of the slow business here which leaves them out of work," she said.

INSULAR LIFE — Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure	Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure	
	UNIT PRICES (In Php)	
	August 28, 2006	August 21, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	1.169822	1.169093
Balanced Fund	1.173925	1.174373
Equity Fund	1.186800	1.189968

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.



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METROBANK 44

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SHAREHOLDERS OR STAKEHOLDERS?

Local independent directors face dilemma

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Conclusion)

THE NEED FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE Philippine corporate sector becomes clear after even just a cursory review of the business environment, especially since many local firms, including some of the largest, continue to be family-run concerns.

Nowhere is the need for independent directors felt more intensely than in the banking industry.

According to financial regulators, practically all failed banks—especially those which were eventually brought down by bank runs—were felled by poor corporate governance.

Thus, it is not surprising that the corporate governance "revolution" in the country actually began with the banking sector five years ago.

Other people's money

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Governor Nestor A. Espenilla believes that the very nature of banking makes the role of independent directors critical in the industry.

"Banks are highly leveraged institutions," he said, explaining that, on the average, only 15 percent of the bank owners' money is at risk at any given time.

About 85 percent of a bank's assets under management are funded by clients' deposits.

"Banks are essentially working with other people's money," he said. "You have to have someone looking out for that."

'Used and abused'

While the concept of independent directors is in its early days locally, it has already been put to the test and "used and abused" in the ongoing fight for control of Equitable PCI Bank.

Last year, the bank's stockholders elected to its board former Foreign Affairs Sec. Roberto R. Romulo with the unequivocal support of the firm's founding Go family.

Romulo's election as independent director was soon criticized by the other stockholders which wanted to see control of the bank transferred to suitor Banco de Oro Universal Bank of mall tycoon Henry Sy Sr.

Romulo was accused of "not being independent" by siding with the Go family, which was then desperately trying to fend off the Sy group's hostile takeover attempt.

Romulo's stint as independent director was short-lived. He was unseated by the BSP's Monetary Board, having been found to be serving as director in another Go family-controlled firm—essentially a "conflict of interest" situation.

More recently, however, the status of another of Equitable PCI's independent directors has come into question.

The Monetary Board ruled that Social Security System (SSS) president Corazon dela Paz should not serve as bank chairman and independent director at the same time.

Dela Paz favors the merger of Equitable PCI with Banco de Oro, saying that it will benefit the members of the SSS—a substantial shareholder—with whom her loyalty lies, first and foremost.

Both incidents are forcing policy planners at the BSP to rethink their rules on independent directors with an eye on making them more independent and less beholden to the parties that invite them onto the corporations' boards.

"The system has to be strengthened because being in independent director is a big responsibility," Espenilla said, adding that he understood the difficulty of advocating the interests of underrepresented stakeholders versus influential shareholders.

The same argument and dilemma essentially holds true in most other non-bank corporations.

Shareholder versus stakeholder

In the case of a tightly controlled firm like Philippine Airlines, the role of an independent director is still critical, albeit it does raise eyebrows since Lucio Tan owns 96 percent of the company's stock, with the balance being distributed among four government financial institutions.

Asked what good an independent director can do in such an environment, PAL president and chief operating officer Jaime J. Bautista noted that the company has other stakeholders behind the scenes.

"An independent director should look out for them."

For people at the Institute of Corporate Directors advocacy group, getting businessmen to take to heart the difference between "shareholders" and "stakeholders" seems to be the biggest hurdle.

"Some companies still challenge the need for independent directors based on cultural sensitivities," said ICD executive director Jonathan Juan Moreno.

Surprisingly, however, he noted that more corporations are seeing the need for corporate governance.

The challenge going forward, he explained, was to convince mid-sized and even small firms to adopt the same standards of corporate governance.

Despite this slow progress, Moreno said qualified independent directors continue to be in short supply.

ICD is one of the few institutions accredited by regulators to train corporate directors. So far, it only has 97 qualified directors which have undergone its training program, with another 10 graduating next week.

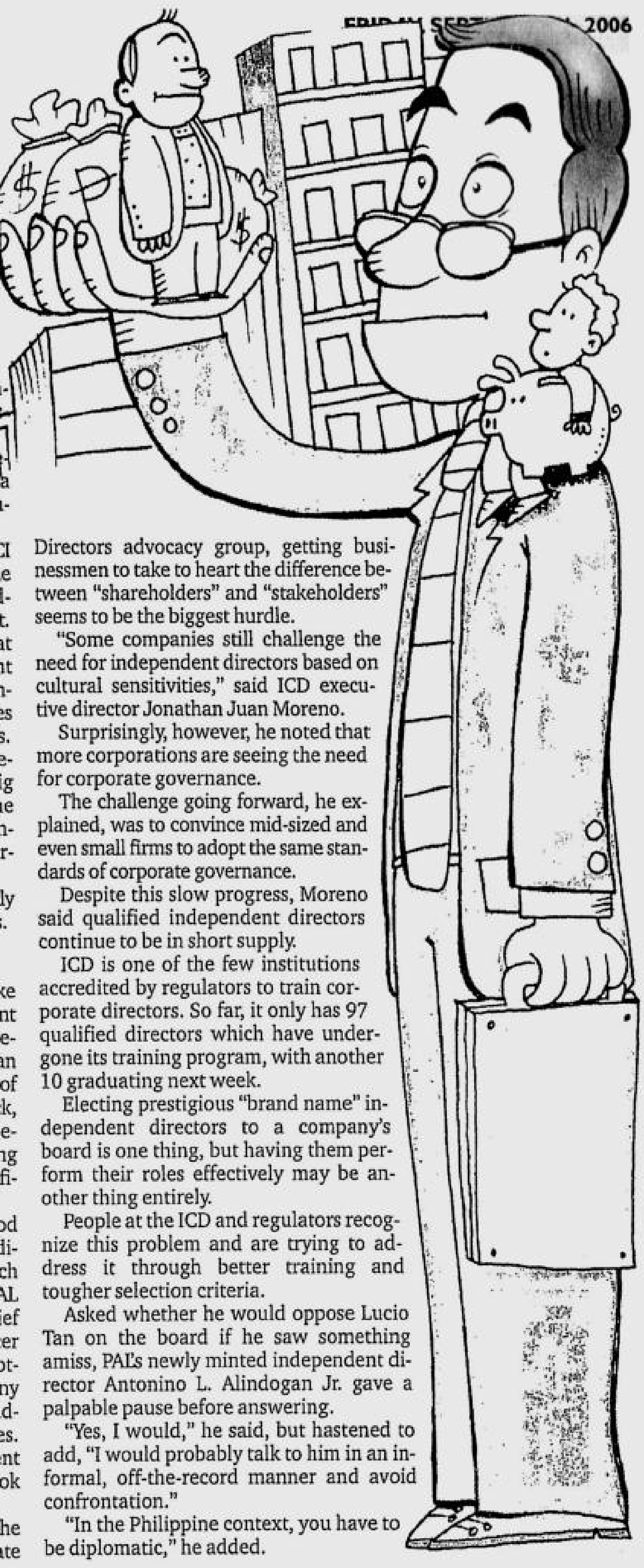
Electing prestigious "brand name" independent directors to a company's board is one thing, but having them perform their roles effectively may be another thing entirely.

People at the ICD and regulators recognize this problem and are trying to address it through better training and tougher selection criteria.

Asked whether he would oppose Lucio Tan on the board if he saw something amiss, PAL's newly minted independent director Antonino L. Alindogan Jr. gave a palpable pause before answering.

"Yes, I would," he said, but hastened to add, "I would probably talk to him in an informal, off-the-record manner and avoid confrontation."

"In the Philippine context, you have to be diplomatic," he added.



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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1 SEPTEMBER 27

2:00 – 2:30 pm	Opening Ceremonies
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Keynote Session 1: **"Awakening the HeRo Within"**
3:00 – 4:00 pm	CEO Forum: **"Mapping HR's Value in the Organization, Industry, and Country"**
4:00 – 7:00 pm	Opening of the PMAP Expo, Art Exhibit, Book Launch and Cocktails
7:00 pm	The 30th PMAP Awards Night & Fellowship

DAY 2 SEPTEMBER 28

8:30 – 9:15 am	Keynote Session 2: **"Valuing HR's Role in Business -Insights from an Industry Leader"**
9:15 – 10:15 am	Plenary Session 1: **"Where Are We Now - The State of HR's Role in Driving Business in the Philippines"**
10:45 – 11:30 am	Plenary Session 2: **"Showcase of a Winner: The 2006 Employer of the Year"**
11:30 – 12:00 pm	**"HR Nuggets"** (Poster Presentation of HR Ideas)
2:00 – 3:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions I: **HR Toolbox - New Concepts, Strategies, and Tools in HR**
4:00 – 5:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions II: **Case Studies on Best Practices in HR**

DAY 3 SEPTEMBER 29

8:30 – 10:00 am	Keynote Session 3: **"The HR Value Proposition"**
10:30 – 11:15 am	Plenary Session 3: **"Competencies That HR Professionals Must Have in Delivering Business Results"**
11:15 – 12:00 pm	Plenary Session 4: **"Way to the Top - Crafting the Roadmap to a Successful Career"**
1:30 – 2:15 pm	Plenary Session 5: **"Becoming a Global HR"**
2:15 – 3:00 pm	Plenary Session 6: **"National HR Agenda: The Filipinos as Source of the Country's Competitiveness"**
3:30 – 4:15 pm	Plenary Session 7: **"Iba Pa Rin Ang Pinoy"**
4:15 – 4:30 pm	Closing Ceremonies
7:00 pm	50th PMAP Anniversary Gala Night

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(As of August 31, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	37	37	36.5	37	867,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	53	52.5	53	1,028,100
China Banking Corp.	700	700	695	700	3,510
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	2,390,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	79	79.5	78.5	79	225,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	38.5	37	38.5	1,009,100
Philippine National Bank	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	3,000
Phil. Savings Bank	41	41.5	41	41.5	8,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	49.5	50	49	50	478,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5	369,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
ATR Kimeng Fin. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	34,000
Bankard Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.22	2.3	2.22	2.26	1,510,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1625	1650	1625	1650	50
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2040	2050	2040	2050	1,090
Ivantage Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.4	3,016,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	46.5	44.5	46.5	869,800
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42.5	42	42	748,600
Manila Electric Co. A	16.5	17	16.5	17	95,600
Manila Electric Co. B	26.5	27	26.5	27	1,762,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	366,000
Petron Corp.	4	4.05	4	4	3,777,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.29	2,540,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.94	70,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	106,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	44,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	6,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	22,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32.5	32	32	300,500
RFM Corp.	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.82	290,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.85	2,078,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	64.5	65.5	157,700
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70.5	71	417,300
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	6,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	18	18	1,170,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	300,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.29	330,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.62	1.68	1.62	1.66	2,977,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	13,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.5	4.3	3.5	4.3	181,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.35	3.35	31,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	14,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	110,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.64	0.67	0.63	0.64	84,330,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.195	0.21	0.165	0.17	67,760,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	30,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	84,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	10,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge Inc. B	16	16	16	16	2,000
Ayala Corp.	435	440	432.5	440	215,300
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	5	4.9	4.95	126,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.03	22,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.82	796,000
APC Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	9,870,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	95,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.95	1.02	0.95	1.02	1,850,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.02	1.26	1.02	1.1	767,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	1,713,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.05	4.05	4	4.05	5,910,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	2,504,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	49,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	6	537,000
Medco Holdings	0.36	0.37	0.26	0.29	15,200,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.21	0.24	0.2	0.24	840,000
Magnum Holdings, Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	20,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.22	1.54	1.18	1.42	40,265,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	35,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.185	1,380,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.135	8,400,000
SM Investments Corp.	218	222	217	222	285,880
Seafront Resources Corp.	1	1.18	1	1.12	2,320,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	7,400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.135	10,640,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	11,170,300
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	3,283,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	6,820,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.28	2.32	2.28	2.32	1,139,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,570,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	18,200,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	20,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.08	0.0875	0.075	0.075	84,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.36	8,233,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.15	0.15	4,780,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.17	0.18	0.165	0.165	850,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.4	2.55	2.4	2.42	195,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.007	392,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.007	18,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.27	10,500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	390,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.019	0.017	0.019	5,300,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.66	1.68	58,129,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.29	0.29	600,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	630,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	68,100
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	500,000
SM Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	69,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8	7.9	7.9	4,216,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.67	0.71	0.66	0.66	3,880,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.115	0.0975	0.0975	11,920,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16	16.25	16	16.25	21,500
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	5,806,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	985	985	975	985	120,740
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.75	3.95	3.75	3.95	15,788,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1910	1920	1900	1910	345,340
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.205	14,990,000
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	19,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.06	2.02	2.06	92,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.0575	0.05	0.055	23,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	9,300,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	190,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.03	41,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	1,380,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	1	1	0.99	1	490,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	1,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.68	2,330,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.42	0.35	0.37	12,920,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	30,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	5,000
Far Eastern University	1200	1250	1200	1250	30
Ipeople Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	1,112,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	121,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.25	10	10.25	711,500
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.4	3,613,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	5.1	5.5	5.1	5.3	2,060,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.009	0.011	0.009	0.011	1,387,000,000
Atlas Cons Min & Dev't	8.4	8.8	8.4	8.8	11,672,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.245	0.235	0.24	3,680,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.018	127,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	69,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.0095	0.011	451,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4	4.05	3.95	3.95	1,905,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.1	4.15	3.95	3.95	3,784,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	22.75	22.75	20.75	21.25	497,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.58	1,090,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.63	0.63	0.6	0.61	370,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,260,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	208,800,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.18	1.2	1.16	1.2	645,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	249,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	12	12.25	11.75	12	181,600
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	104	103	103	3,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	17	17	17	17	500,000

CURRENCIES

August 31, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.779180	1.000000	50.9370
Japan	Yen	0.006654	0.008540	0.4350
United Kingdom	Pound	1.484261	1.904900	97.0299
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100186	0.128579	6.5494
Switzerland	Franc	0.634719	0.814598	41.4932
Canada	Dollar	0.702534	0.901632	45.9264
Singapore	Dollar	0.495189	0.635526	32.3718
Australia	Dollar	0.595612	0.764409	38.9367
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.066956	2.652731	135.1222
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207765	0.266645	13.5821
Brunei	Dollar	0.493621	0.633513	32.2693
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020731	0.026606	1.3552
UAE	Dirham	0.212154	0.272279	13.8691
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.283400	65.3725
Argentina	Peso	0.251958	0.323363	16.4711
Brazil	Real	0.365830	0.469506	23.9152
Denmark	Kroner	0.134076	0.172073	8.7649
India	Rupee	0.016804	0.021566	1.0985
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.211791	0.271813	13.8453
Mexico	New Peso	0.071632	0.091933	4.6828
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505305	0.648508	33.0331
Norway	Kroner	0.123646	0.158687	8.0830
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012922	0.016584	0.8447
South Africa	Rand	0.110101	0.141303	7.1976
Korea	Won	0.000811	0.001041	0.0530
Sweden	Kroner	0.108272	0.138956	7.0780
Syria	Pound	0.015010	0.019264	0.9813
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023683	0.030395	1.5482
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000363	0.000466	0.0237

SSS income up 23% to P3.7B

Contributions exceeded benefits payment by P408M in first half

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED SOCIAL SECurity System posted P3.7 billion in net profit in the first semester as collections exceeded benefits payment.

The amount was 23 percent higher than the P3 billion in net income registered in the same period last year.

In a briefing yesterday, SSS president Corazon dela Paz said it was only the second time since 1999 that the amount of contributions exceeded the amount of benefits disbursed to members.

The pension fund's six-month collection of contributions exceeded benefits payment in the same period by P408 million.

The positive performance extended the actuarial life of the SSS by 16 years. This means that its reserves, earlier projected to be depleted by 2015, are now seen to last until 2031.

"Our sustained and vigorous coverage and collection campaign resulted in the increase of members' contributions," Dela Paz said.

The SSS members' contribution reached P25.52 billion, higher than the P23.14 billion a year ago. Benefits paid also went up to P25 billion from P23.4 billion a year ago.

During the period, the SSS' total investment portfolio rose to P205 billion from P188 billion a year ago.

The pension fund's biggest investments were in equities, worth P68.5 billion, and government securities, worth P48.5 billion. Other investments were placed in development loans (P5.6 billion), housing loans (P29.8 billion), salary loans (P32.6 billion) and real estate (P15.3 billion).

The SSS' total assets went up by 6 percent to P211.65 billion from year-ago, while reserve fund rose by 5.3 percent to P206.8 billion.

Dela Paz said the SSS, which was celebrating its 49th year, was aware that it needed to do more to cope with inflationary pressures.

She said recent reforms taken by the pension fund were not enough, citing the need to amend its charter and a review of its services.

SSS chief actuary Horace Templo said the pension fund was hoping that economic growth would pick up to shore up its capability to increase benefits.

Based on the SSS' simulations, a 0.5 percentage rise in contribution can expand its capability to increase benefit payments by 8 percent.

RLC to spend P7B in '07

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. IS spending about P7 billion for land acquisition and property projects next year.

The company will use the proceeds from its planned shares offering this month for these projects.

The proposed share offer was presented yesterday for approval to the Securities and Exchange Commission en banc.

RLC is raising P10-P12 billion in fresh capital from the offering of old and new shares to foreign and local investors.

In a draft prospectus filed with the SEC, RLC said its P7-billion capital expenditure for 2007 would be used for the construction of new malls, improvement of existing malls, acquisition of land for commercial centers, development of residential buildings, housing subdivisions and refurbishment of hotels.

RLC plans to offer 811 million shares largely to foreign investors next month, which can be raised further to 933 million shares depending on demand.

From the primary offer alone, RLC estimated it could generate P5.23 billion.

Selling shareholders—JG Summit Holdings Inc., JG Summit Capital Services Corp. and Universal Robina Corp.—will receive P4.13 billion from their sale of shares in RLC. Sources said the JG Summit Group now controls 94 percent of RLC's outstanding capital. After the share offer, JG Summit will still retain majority ownership of the property firm but will reduce its holdings to about 60 percent.

RLC said the offer price for its additional share offer would be computed based on the average trading price of RLC's shares for 10 trading days ending on Sept. 22, subject to a discount of up to 10 percent. RLC's closing price as of Aug. 23 was P12 per share.

RLC tapped UBS Investment Bank as the sole international underwriter while ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. is the domestic underwriter.

DISCLOSURES

LAWYERS Brigada S. Aldeguer and Andro B. Navato Jr. have been elected corporate secretary and assistant corporate secretary of **East Asia Power Resources Corp.** to replace lawyers Jose A. Feria Jr. and Jay Daniel R. Santiago.

* * *

PHILEX Mining Corp. has declared a cash dividend of P0.05 per share.

* * *

SWIFT Foods Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 11, 2:30 p.m. at the RFM Corporate Center in Mandaluyong City. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 13 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

DR. TERESITA D. Dizon, Gregorio C. Dizon, Frederick D. Matsuda, Agnes H. Maranan, Amado S. Santiago Jr., Israel C. Gaddi and Rafael P. Dizon III have been elected directors of **Dizon Copper-Silver Mines Inc.** Mark Dennis Y.C. Joven and Victori B. Lamat have also been elected independent directors. ***Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research***

Shares ...

From page B1

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed up 15.45 points at the day's high of 2,312.23, after striking a low of 2,296.49.

There were 3.6 billion shares traded worth P2.29 billion ($45.1 million).

Gainers beat losers 68 to 21, while 65 stocks closed flat.

The broader all-shares index rose 11.78 points to 1,445.81.

The peso traded at 50.822 to the dollar as the stock market closed. *AFP*

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Aug. 29, 2006	Last Week Aug. 22, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.46730	1.46483
Managed Fund - Peso	1.60874	1.60710
Growth Fund - Peso	1.27185	1.27084
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2715	1.2731

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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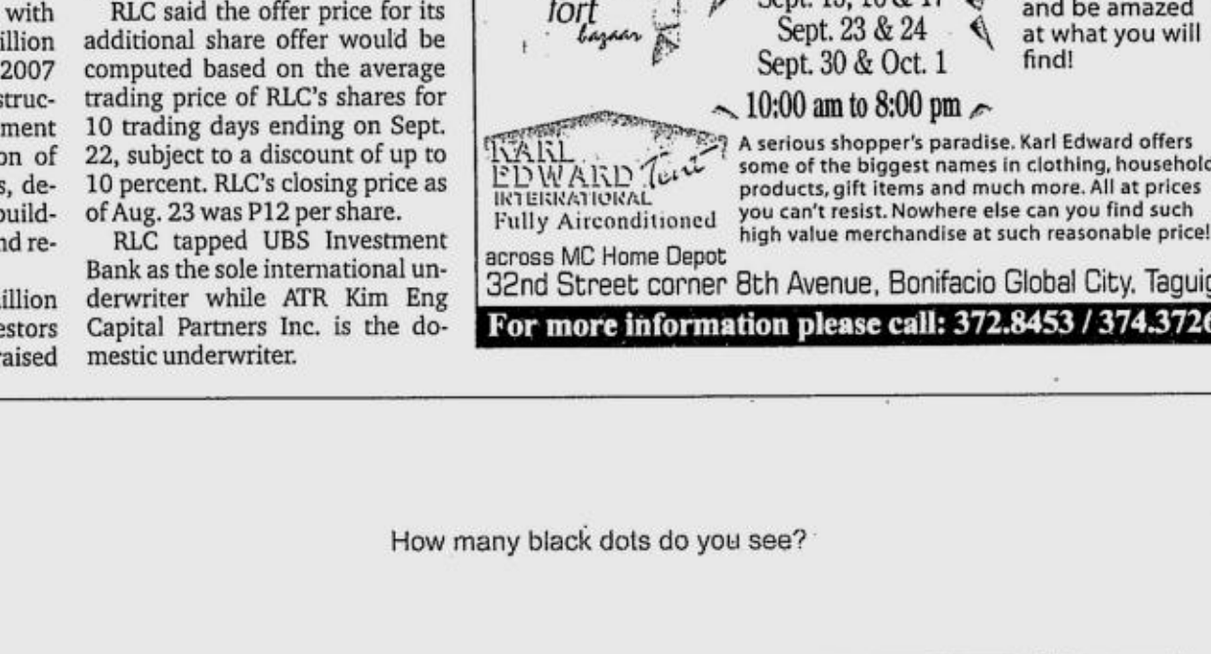
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SSS at 49: Keeping True to its Mandate of Service, Facing the Challenges of the Times

The year was 1957. The Philippines was at the threshold of economic development, recognized as a leading economy in Asia. Successfully rebuilding from the ruins of the last World War, jobs were aplenty, the economy was positively humming, and Filipinos were enjoying the veritable wealth that political and social stability afforded. The creation of the Philippine Social Security System (SSS) through an act of legislation was deemed lofty and forward thinking, considering that the concept of social security protection for workers was unheard of then.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warmest congratulations to the Social Security System (SSS) as you celebrate your 49th Anniversary.

Your theme: "SSS - Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat sa Pagbabago Magpakailanman," aptly captures the role of SSS over and above being a pension fund of private sector workers. The SSS is a social institution that offers a shoulder to lean on by members and their families in times of need, a friend to industries and enterprises in helping business grow, and a partner of government in funding economic development.

I laud the SSS for your unwavering commitment in promoting a universal and equitable social security protection scheme, as well as rendering quality service to our countrymen for forty-nine years. This occasion marks another milestone in your history as you continue fulfilling your noble mission to lend a hand to our fellow Filipinos while becoming a reliable partner of the government and private businesses in national development.

I offer my sincere felicitations to the Social Security Commission (SSC), headed by Chairman Thelmo Y. Cunanan, to SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Corazon S. de la Paz, and to the men and women of the Social Security System. I commend you all for remaining true to your sworn duty of improving the lives of SSS members.

Mabuhay ang SSS! Mabuhay ang Filipino!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
MANILA
01 September 2006

49th Anniversary
Program of Activities

VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Noli De Castro
KEYNOTES SSS ANNIVERSARY

Today, September 1, on its 49th foundation anniversary, the SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM offers its partners and friends an array of services to uphold its mandate of providing social security protection to its members.

OPENING OF EXHIBIT. Guest of Honor Vice President Noli De Castro will formally open the celebration with the ribbon cutting ceremonies marking the opening of the Visual Exhibit at the SSS Lobby of the Main Office in Quezon City. To assist Vice President de Castro are Social Security Commission Chairman Thelmo Y. Cunanan and SSS President and CEO Corazon S. de la Paz.

BALIKAT NG BAYAN AWARDS. Twelve companies nationwide will be conferred the Balikat ng Bayan Awards. This is a tribute given by the SSS to honor institutions or organizations that significantly contributed to the SSS' pursuit of its mandate.

ANNIVERSARY MASS. A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated at the SSS Chapel with guests, SSS officers and employees.

EMPLOYEES' PROGRAM. A program for employees will be held in the afternoon. Awards will be given such as the Covenant of Service Awards (COS) for best performing SSS branches and Best Accounts Officers and winners to the SSS 49th Anniversary Essay Writing Contest with the theme "SSS – Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat sa Pagbabago Magpakailanman" shall be awarded.

PRE- ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES.

Medical Mission. SSS members were given free medical checkups and medicines. The Medical Mission was held at the Members' Assistance Center in the main office, and replicated in the branches nationwide.

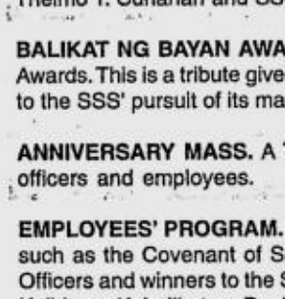
Pensioners' Day. As a way of extending social and medical assistance to SSS pensioners, particularly the elderly, the SSS "Pensioners' Day" program which is a bi-monthly affair at the SSS was done on grander scale in celebration of the SSS Anniversary.

SSS Photography Club Opening of Exhibit. SSS Photography Club members featured their best shots in their exhibit titled "Ang Pilipinas Kong Mahal" at the SSS Gallery, 2/F main office, Quezon City. The exhibit runs until September 30, 2006.

SSS Photography Club 2006 Photo Challenge with the theme: SSS Hymn "The Song," a literal interpretation of the lyrics of the SSS Hymn thru pictures was also held in celebration of the SSS 49th Anniversary.

POST – ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM. For SSS employees and their families.

Balikat ng Bayan Awards



The Balikat ng Bayan Award is a tribute given by the SSS to honor individuals, institutions or organization that significantly contributed to the SSS' pursuit of its mandate. Twelve awardees nationwide were honored for their compliance to the provisions of the SS Law in terms of coverage, collection and giving out of benefits, accuracy and timeliness of their submission if reports, and participation in SSS programs. This year, the SSS presented the award to the following institutions that helped the SSS in carrying out is tasks:

The **Top Employer Award** for NCR, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao went to Mercury Drug Corporation, Philips Semiconductors Phils., Inc., Siliman University, and Dole Philippines, Inc., respectively.

Under the **Best Collecting Bank Awards**, Rural Green Bank of Caraga, Inc. was hailed as the Best Collecting Rural Bank, Planters Development Bank as the Best Collecting Thrift Bank, Equitable PCI Bank as the Best Collecting Commercial Bank and the Philippine National Bank as the Best Collecting Bank for OFW Remittances.

Awardees for the **Best Paying Bank** include Rural Green Bank of Caraga, Inc. for the Best Paying Rural Bank while BPI Family Savings Bank and the Philippine National Bank garnered the awards for Best Paying Thrift Bank and Best Paying Commercial Bank, respectively.

Completing the awards roster is this year's **Best Participating Financial Institution**, Planters Development Bank.

Forward 49 years. Today, September 1, 2006, the SSS celebrates its 49th Founding Anniversary with the theme, "SSS – Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman". The theme highlights the multi-faceted role of SSS: Kaagapay, a partner of government and private enterprises in spurring economic and business growth; Kaibigan, a friend that every working Filipino can turn to in times of need; and Kabalikat, a shoulder of support for families in realizing their dreams of a better life.

In the past years, the SSS faced many obstacles that tested its resilience and its foundation. Yet the assurance of timely and meaningful financial assistance in times of members' contingencies remains the bedrock on which the SSS stands. While facing the challenges of the changing times, SSS shall hold true to its vow of dependable social security protection for Filipinos not just for today, but for perpetuity.

The SSS as a Social Insurance Program

By design, the SSS social insurance program is a defined benefit program whereby benefits are defined or are provided at a stated level. The principles of egalitarianism and solidarity are embedded in the pooling of contributions of all SSS members, and the cross-subsidy between the young and the old, the healthy and the infirm, the high-income earner and the low-wage earner.

Members, who have sufficiently contributed to the SSS, and their beneficiaries, are eligible to receive benefits from the System if they reach retirement, become disabled, injured at work, or die. In addition, members can also avail of short-term benefits for sickness and maternity. Members can also avail of SSS loans, the most popular of which is the salary loan facility intended to help members meet short-term financial needs. Other loan programs, such as housing and business loans, are coursed through banks and participating financial institutions.

The extension of social protection to overseas Filipino workers (OFW), and to workers in the informal sector is being pursued on the principle that Filipinos must be protected wherever they are and however unstable or irregular their employment and wage conditions may be.

Covering Filipinos Worldwide

As of June 2006, there were 26.4 million individuals registered with the SSS. Of the total membership, 20.9 million are private sector employees (including household helpers), 5.5 million are self-employed workers and voluntary members (SEVM). There are 774,040 registered employers. Included in the SEVM count are 533,859 registered OFW-members. The number of SSS members who have become pensioners due to retirement, disability, and death total 1,138,755 as of June 2006.

To service the needs of these members and pensioners, the SSS has 160 offices around the country and 15 representative offices abroad.

Keeping True to the Mandate

Benefits. Despite receiving no subsidy from government, SSS has never failed to pay for the pensions and other benefits of its members. In 2005, the SSS paid a total of P46.3 billion in benefit claims. For the first half of 2006, the SSS paid P 25.05 billion in benefits to some 1.531 million beneficiaries in the form of death, disability. retirement, sickness, maternity, funeral, and medical services. This is an increase of 7.1 percent from the benefit payments made from January to June 2005.

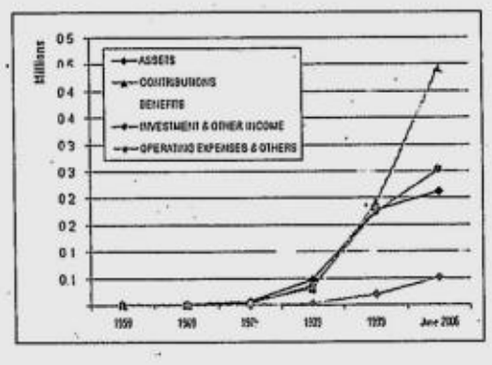
For the period 1999-2004, SSS benefit payments exceeded contributions collection in view of the weak link between the contribution rate vis-a-vis the benefit structure of the program. As designed, the fund's investment earnings make up for any contribution shortfall. Nevertheless, the combination of the various corrective measures adopted both on the contribution and benefit sides helped remedy the imbalance and enabled the SSS to make headway in reversing the deficit into a surplus. As a result, the gap between contributions and benefits narrowed down from P7.6 billion in 2001 to P0.9 billion in 2004. In 2005, a dramatic turnaround in the financial status of the SSS ensued as it recorded a surplus of P1.3 billion, the first in the last seven (7) years.

Financing Social Services

Contributions. Since member contributions are the primary funding source of benefits, the collection drive of SSS continues with greater intensity and vigor. For the period 2001 to 2005, contribution collection grew at an average of 10 percent annually. From P31.4 billion in

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
1957 - June 2006 (In Million Pesos)

AS OF YEAREND	ASSETS	CONTRIBUTIONS	BENEFITS	INVESTMENT & OTHER INCOME	OPERATING EXPENSES & OTHERS
1959	68.2	72.5	2.8	4.0	6.1
1969	963.2	1,002.4	190.7	226.3	124.4
1979	7,258.2	6,631.7	1,774.7	2,914.2	629.8
1989	48,200.9	31,746.3	17,505.7	35,793.2	2,481.4
1999	176,875.1	190,378.5	176,921.6	174,813.3	19,658.4
June 2006	211,623.9	442,734.4	448,702.2	253,063.9	51,493.2



Good governance starts at the top

Seated (left to right) Thelmo Y. Cunanan-Chairman; Corazon S. de la Paz-Vice-Chairman; Standing (left to right) Ramon J. Jabar, Ma. Tibayan Paliteo, Sergio R. Luis-Ortiz Jr.; Victorino F. Balais; Donald G. Dee and Marianita O. Mendoza; (not in photo) Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion

The SSS Charter tasks the Social Security Commission (SSC), the highest decision-making body in SSS, with the responsibility of managing and investing the SSS reserve funds with the skill, care and diligence of a prudent man. Insulating SSS funds from political influence would therefore rest primarily on the independence of the SSC members. Meanwhile, the exercise of prudence requires the SSC to have a broad investment knowledge and familiarity with financial instruments and markets. Such expertise encourages a healthy relationship between the SSC and the SSS management in terms of having an arms-length relationship between investment policy formulation vis-à-vis its execution, and encouraging rigorous fiscalizing, screening and evaluation of investment proposals.

However, after all is said and done, good governance boils down to the leader's integrity, strength of character, sense of right and wrong, and honesty to avoid conflict-of-interest situations. Such are the leaders that comprise the SSC. And in the SSS President and Chief Executive Officer, members can count on her prudence, independence, and track record of responsible management as measures of performance.

2001, contributions expanded by 52 percent to P47.6 billion in 2005. From January to June 2006, the SSS continued with this positive trend as its contribution collections rose 10.2 percent to P25.51 billion, from P23.14 billion collected in the first half of 2005.

Investments. As of June 2006, the investment portfolio of SSS amounted to P200.48 billion, higher by 6.5 percent than the P 188.25 billion investment level as of year-end 2005. The four (4) biggest items in its portfolio are equities, P68.5 billion; government securities, P48.45 billion; member loans, P32.61 billion; and housing loans, P 29.86 billion. About P 20.37 billion are invested in properties and in development loans. Earnings from investment inn the first six months of 2006 totaled P 5.92 billion, an average return on investment rate of 6.2 percent.

To the extent possible, the SSS is improving on the risk-liquidity-and-yield profile of its investment portfolio, particularly in its equity holdings and housing loans. In year-end 2000, SSS had P48 billion in its equity portfolio. As of end-2004, SSS had consolidated its position to P45 billion and deliberately marked to market its equity investments. Marking to market allows it to assess in more certain and current terms the financial position of the fund.

Improving Service Delivery

Covenant of Service (COS). It is SSS' pledge to significantly reduce processing time for benefit claims and loan applications. Through the COS, members are advised when they would receive the proceeds of their loan or benefit claims. Implemented since 2001, the COS has achieved substantial reductions in processing time for all types of loans and benefit transactions.

The efforts of SSS to improve service delivery have borne fruit as manifested in the results of the fourth quarter 2005 survey of the Social Weathers Station (SWS), which showed an improvement in the net satisfaction rating of SSS to 41 percent in December 2005, from 24 percent the previous year. In another recent SWS survey conducted from February to April 2006 among business managers, the SSS also received the second highest rating after the Supreme Court among rated government agencies in terms of sincerity in fighting corruption.

Prudent Fund Management

As the steward of members' contributions, the SSS practices prudent fund management by keeping the growth of its operating expenses at sparing levels. For the period 1991 to 2000, operating expenses increased at an average rate of over 24 percent per year. With the cost-cutting measures adopted since 2001, the SSS was able to limit operating expenses to just 6 percent per year. With full support from its personnel, austerity measures such as cutbacks on employee benefits, office space rentals, rent escalation rates and equipment rentals have resulted in savings totaling P2 billion for the period 2001-2004. From January to June 2006, operating expenses totaled P 2.84 billion, lower by 4.4 percent than the budgeted P2.97 billion, and representing only 9.7 percent of SSS' total revenues. With the improvement in its actuarial position, SSS is able to gradually fund projects to further strengthen its service delivery capability.

The SSS continues to recover and expand its asset base. As of June 2006, the consolidated assets of the SS and Employees' Compensation (which the SSS also administers for private sector workers) reached P211.62 billion, 5.9 percent higher than the P199.83 billion fund-level as of year-end 2005.

Current Initiatives

To achieve sustainable improvement in the financial standing of the fund, efforts to jump-start reforms at the SSS have evolved into what has come to be known as the Four Pillars of Governance: The Pillar of Financial Viability. The Pillar of Sound Investments. The Pillar of Quality Service. The Pillar of Corporate Culture. These pillars seek to set and define governance standards in all fundamental aspects of SSS operations.

On financial viability. The biggest challenge to any pension fund is ensuring financial viability. This would require that incomes from member contributions and investments be at least enough to cover member benefits and operating expenses. To improve collection efforts and to facilitate payment of member contributions and loan payments, particularly of the 5.5 million self-employed members, the SSS has contemplated on several measures.

New payment schemes. To allow our members to pay directly their premiums and loan accounts while they are in an SSS office, the branch tellering project was pursued in 2004. This is also in response to the limited hours provided by banks for the acceptance of payments from SSS members, specially the self-employed and voluntary members. Plans are afoot to add 169 tellering systems in 79 branches this year, on top of the current 41.

Other payment schemes are likewise being put into place, such as remittance through over 600 Bayad Center payment facilities nationwide, collection through third party agents like LBC Express, payment thru Philpost, use of self-service payment terminals in SSS branches, payment thru text-messaging, and payment through cooperatives. The SSS has also forged new agreements with banks such as the Development Bank of the Philippines, Bank of Commerce, Asia United Bank, and China Bank Corporation for the collection and remittance of OFW-members' contributions and loan payments, through their collection agents abroad. For the convenience of employers, the SSS has partnered with value-added networks such as Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)-Net, Union Bank Online, and Bancnet Online for the electronic remittance of employees contributions and online transmittal of contribution and payment reports.

ACOP. As part of the measures adopted to safeguard the funds and prevent fraud, the SSS implemented for one-and-a-half years the Annual Confirmation of Pensioners (ACOP) Program to verify their identities and status. The program resulted in the suspension of some P2 billion pension payments and recovery of P723 million from accounts of pensioners who were confirmed to have either died, remarried, or were re-employed.

On sound investments. Guided by the basic tenets of fund safety, yield, and liquidity the SSS continues to adopt a prudent investment posture in line with its fiduciary responsibility as the steward of the members' fund.

Condonation Program. A long-standing concern of the SSS is the collection of delinquent member loans. The condonation program for short-term member loans, which started in October 2004, was extended until end-December 2006. This program will allow not only delinquent individual members but also delinquent employers to pay their arrearages and update their accounts covering primarily salary loans. Proportionate write-off of penalties is made for periodic partial payments during the same period. A condonation and restructuring program for housing loans is likewise set for implementation within the year.

On quality service. What we cannot give to our members in the form of money, we give in terms of quality service. Efforts are geared towards allowing electronic transactions for greater member convenience and cost efficiency.

Ten new offices in NCR. To meet the growing demand for responsive service, the SSS has initiated the creation of ten (10) new receiving centers in the National Capital Region. As alternative to branch counters, the installation of 50 self-service terminals is targeted within the year in various members' assistance centers nationwide.

COS Expansion. More importantly, the SSS is working on the expansion of the Covenant of Service program and the enhancement of its monitoring system. Aside from further reducing processing time for benefit claims and loan applications, there are still other transactions that need to be reviewed, like posting of payments and processing of exceptionally difficult transactions.

Pensioners' Day Program. During these times when the financial standing of the SSS Fund is still being strengthened and improved upon, the Pensioners' Day Program was conceived as a way through which the SSS could serve the needs and help alleviate the economic plight of pensioners. The Program provides social and medical assistance to SSS pensioners, particularly the elderly, by extending their financial resources, which would have otherwise been spent on their medical needs. Also through this program, SSS pensioners are given a venue in which they could interact and socialize with their fellow pensioners in a light-hearted and entertaining environment, as well as learn life-coping mechanisms that the elderly particularly need. They also have opportunities to learn new knowledge and skills that would help them live richer and healthier lives.

On corporate culture. It is the SSS bureaucracy that holds the key to whether or not the institution would prove itself equal to the many challenges it faces in behalf of its members. To this end, efforts to strengthen this bureaucracy have been, and shall be, directed towards putting in place an efficient and streamlined organization and a more effective performance evaluation system.

Rationalization Program. In response to a directive from the national government, the SSS has embarked on a Rationalization Program, which is aimed at identifying the core functions, programs, activities, and services of the System, and putting the required financial and human resources, and information technology to strengthen these.

Code of Ethics. Aside from the Code of Ethical Standards embedded in the existing civil service rules for government employees, SSS is developing its own Code of Ethics to guide its people in the execution of official duties, according to the highest level of professionalism and integrity.

Looking Forward to 50

To date, the results of SSS' efforts over the last five years point to a positive development. However, much remains to be done. The SSS may have significantly extended its fund life, but this expansion assumes that it will not provide any pension increase to our members. This is clearly not realistic given the increasing cost of living that pensioners face. Also, the current 9.4 percent contribution rate should be raised to at least 12.5 percent to bring the fund life back to perpetuity. However, there is difficulty in administering this solution in one stiff dose, thus, the best way is to gradually add actuarial years to the fund life.

For 49 years, the SSS has risen to the challenge of providing meaningful protection to millions of Filipinos, while being a steadfast partner of the government and private business in economic development. But the SSS cannot continue with its noble mission alone. It needs the support of its 26 million members, partners in the business community, and national policymakers. As SSS prepares to celebrate its golden anniversary next year, it hopes to become a more resilient institution capable of serving the Filipino for generations to come.

STRENGTHENING THE SSS FUND

BEING A SSS MEMBER

Mr. Generoso Silong, at the age of 94, is among the oldest pensioners of SSS. Although often suffering from high blood pressure, hearing problems, and arthritis, Mang Generoso tries to remain physically active by walking every morning around his neighborhood in San Martin de Porres, Cubao. He enjoys attending the SSS Pensioners' Day Program at the SSS Main Office because it gives him a chance to meet and interact with fellow pensioners, learn new things from the lectures, stay active through the various games, dances, and exercises, and more importantly, receive free medicines and vitamins to supplement his daily medications.

Mang Generoso is a classic case of a SSS member who, through conscientious contributions, is now enjoying the rewards of his membership almost hundred-fold. Coming from Southern Leyte, he moved to Manila before the onset of World War II and worked in various jobs, even serving as a guard in Malacañang during the administration of President Jose Laurel. He was later employed as a salesman in a paint and varnish company, wherein he stayed for eleven years. When he filed his SSS retirement claim, his total SSS contributions amounted to a little more than P1,128.

He started receiving his monthly SSS pension in February 1974, at P45 per month. Thirty-two years later, he still receives without fail his pension, now at P2,008.94 per month. Over this period of time, he has received more than 400 monthly pensions, for a total SSS payout of over P348,000 to date. Considering his total contribution as his investment in SSS, his total retirement pension payout would translate to an internal rate of return close to 30%!

For most SSS pensioners, like Mang Generoso, the monthly amount that they receive through their bank accounts or through the mail are often their only means of making ends meet. Certainly, the SSS is mindful of the need of its pensioners for an increase in their pension benefits for them to be able to cope with the increasing cost of living. The last pension increase the SSS granted was in year 2000 at ten percent across-the-board. Since then, however, the SSS has placed a moratorium in granting pension increases unless there is a concrete source of funding for it. With each passing year that no pension increase is granted, the SSS also knows that the purchasing power of its pensioners would likewise decrease.

The SSS and the pensioners are on the same team. One cannot obtain success without the other. As much as Mang Generoso and others like him are able to enjoy the fruit of their trust in the SSS, such fruits are not gathered by idle hands. They are brought forth from an understanding of an equally important foundation of the SSS – that each member has to pay his contributions, and on time! Yes! Being an SSS member is truly rewarding but at the same juncture, one must realize that such rewards can only be the result of us all doing (or "paying" to be precise) our obligations.

STRENGTHENED FUND = ENSURED PENSIONS

For the sake of current pensioners like Mang Generoso, as well as for future pensioners from today's actively-paying members, SSS must continuously strengthen its reserve fund. As a defined benefit scheme, the SSS pension formula is based on the member's amount of contributions and number of contributing years. To fund this defined benefit program, the SSS uses the scaled premium method: an earnings-related contribution rate is set such that over a period, of say 20 years, the fund is able to accumulate reserves, with investment earnings of the reserves becoming an additional source of funding. However, when members start collecting on their benefits, and as benefit payments catch up with contribution collections, the contribution rate would have to be adjusted upwards to allow the fund to accumulate reserves once more. Thus, over the long haul, periodic increases in the contribution rate are part and parcel of the actuarial design of the program.

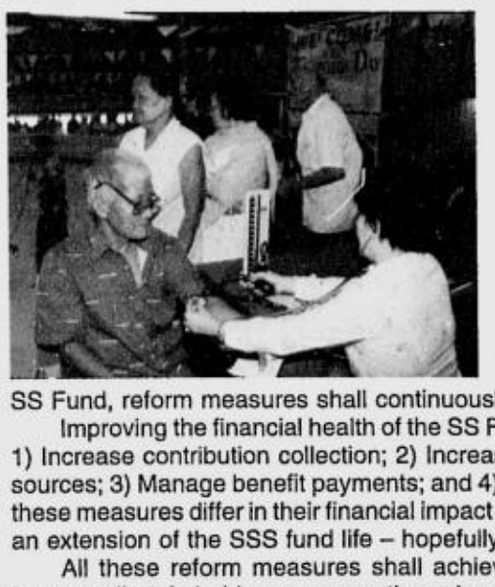
With a struggling economy, the increase in the contribution rate could not be implemented because employers and workers could not afford additional contribution burden. Thus, from 1990 to 2002, SSS benefit payments exceeded contribution collections in ten of these 13 years. It was a good thing that investment income was enough to make up for these deficits. From 1980 to 2000, across-the-board pension increases of 10 to 20 per cent were declared 19 times, the last of which was in September 2000. These pension increases were given with no counterpart increase in the SSS contribution rate. The contribution rate was fixed at 8.4 per cent since 1979 and was raised only last March 2003 by one percentage point to 9.4 per cent, which was shouldered by the employers.

Taking all of these together, plus other factors such as the boom-bust cycle of the economy and investment climate, and the increasing longevity of pensioners due to improved lifestyles and medical advancements, the projected life of the SSS fund seems to have quickly dissipated. Financial projections in the 1999 valuation were based on more actual data than the previous valuations. This has led to less optimistic future scenarios, which reduced estimated fund life from perpetuity in the 1990 valuation to 2015 in the 1999 valuation.

RESTORING ACTUARIAL BALANCE

Since the 1999 actuarial valuation, various corrective measures have been implemented (e.g. increase in the contribution rate, increase in the maximum salary base for contributions from P12,000 to P15,000, and the redefinition of Credited Years of Service) to restore the SSS fund back to health. Operational improvements were also developed, including better collection systems, better fiscal management, more effective inspectorate system, and improved investment portfolio and management, that have effectively extended the life of the Social Security Fund.

THE 2003 ACTUARIAL VALUATION



Based on the 2003 actuarial valuation, the SS Fund is projected to last until 2031, using realistic assumptions and with no yearly pension increase. However, throughout the valuation period, contributions are seen to be inadequate to finance benefit payment and operating expenses, thus, investment income shall continue to be tapped to finance the gap between cash outflow and collections. Hence, to ensure the continued viability of the SS Fund, reform measures shall continuously be put in place.

Improving the financial health of the SS Fund can be done in four (4) basic ways: 1) Increase contribution collection; 2) Increase earnings from investment and other sources; 3) Manage benefit payments; and 4) Control operating expenses. Although these measures differ in their financial impact to the fund, the bottom-line is eventually an extension of the SSS fund life – hopefully, for perpetuity.

All these reform measures shall achieve significant degree of successes so long as all stakeholders espouse the values of team effort and cooperation. The future of the SSS is in the hands not only of its officials and workforce, but also of other important partners like employers, workers, service providers, legislators, and the national government.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Kabalikat mo sa Buhay

HIGH-QUALITY work force, with strong language and communication skills, is RP's biggest strength.

Dell to put up second call center in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DELL INC. YESTERDAY SAID IT WOULD open a second contact center in the country, although the number of seats and the site had yet to be finalized.

The announcement came a year after the company said it was establishing a facility in the Philippines to provide technical support to consumers in the United States.

Earlier this year, Dell launched its 700-seat contact center in Pasay City. This facility, according to officials, doubled its capacity to 1,400 seats a few months after opening. The company currently employs 900 customer support experts.

Yesterday, company officials said the second site was expected to start taking customer calls in February 2007.

"Our Pasay City team has done an excellent job in answering customer questions and solving their issues, delivering Dell's outstanding customer experience that comes with the direct relationship between us and our customers," Richard Hunter, Dell Inc. vice president in charge of customer experience and support for the Americas.

"(The success of the first call center) is a major factor in our decision to expand our investment in the country," Hunter added.

The Pasay City call center was one of 10 such sites that the Nasdaq-listed firm announced or opened in the past two years.

This year, Dell said it was increasing its investment in customer experience by more than $150 million, establishing new contact centers like the ones in the Philippines.

Dell country manager Michael Garrison said: "We continue to exceed growth plans and are focused on improving the customer experience."

"We need experienced problem solvers who can simplify and resolve increasingly complex technical and customer care challenges for home consumers," Garrison added.

Dell's investment also includes improved training and introduction of new service tools like DellConnect, which is a technology that uses broadband connections to let Dell's support teams diagnose and troubleshoot technical issues remotely.

The product enjoys nearly 95 percent customer satisfaction among the more than one million customers who have had their issue resolved by agents using the tool, Dell said.

Officials said Dell chose the country for its customer contact center expansion due to its "high-quality work force with strong language and communication skills," noting that the Philippines had at least 200 colleges and universities.

EPCIB subsidiary accepts SM offer

SSS says offer is good but it still is considering other options

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Doris C. Dumlao

EBC INVESTMENTS INC., A SUBSIDIARY OF Equitable PCI Bank, said its board yesterday accepted the binding offer of the SM group to buy its shares in the bank at P92 per share.

EBCII holds 10.8 percent of the bank's treasury shares or 78.8 million shares for a total of P7.25 billion.

The state-owned Social Security System, for its part, said the SM group's offer to buy out all other shares in EPCIB at P92 per share was "good" but it would consider "better" options, if there would be any.

The SSS owns a 29-percent stake in the bank.

SSS president Corazon dela Paz said the pension fund, the second biggest voting block in the country's third biggest bank, would ask other parties who had offered to buy its shares in EPCIBank in the past if they were willing to top the SM group's offer.

She said the SSS was also open to keeping its stake in EPCIBank in case the courts prevent the pension fund from selling its stake in the bank.

A petition opposing a deal between the SSS and the SM group on Dec. 2004 is pending in the court. Under this deal, the SSS would sell its EPCIBank shares at P43.50 per share.

"We've requested the secretary of justice and our legal council to help us come up with an early resolution of this issue. We'd like to establish the principle (of disposal) because there are other shares (in other listed companies) that we'd like to sell," Dela Paz said.

The legal question yet to be resolved, Dela Paz said, had nothing to do with pricing. She said the issue was on whether the SSS was required to conduct a bidding every time it would sell listed shares.

"We will have to evaluate the prospects of a merged bank in its totality. Will it be better to stay or cash in now," she said.

The SM group owns 34 percent of EPCIBank. It needs to raise its stake to 67 percent to effect a merger with its other bank, Banco de Oro Universal Bank. If the SSS would not be able to participate in the SM group's tender offer, it could hold the swing vote in a potential merger.

DELA PAZ

The SM group's tender offer will commence on Aug. 31 and end on Sept. 28. The group of retail tycoon Henry Sy intends to pay 10 percent of the total price at cross and settlement date on Oct. 2 another 10 percent on June 2, 2007, another 10 percent on Feb. 2, 2008 and the remaining 70 percent on Oct. 2, 2008.

If computed against net present value, the SM group's offer is equivalent to only about P80 per share.

Dela Paz said an earlier agreement between the SSS and SM could not be compared to the present situation.

"At that time, we didn't think that there would be other interested parties," she said.

"The intention is to sell at the best possible price and do it as quickly as possible. The most important thing is there's a buyer so we have a starting point," Dela Paz said.

PSALM moves to secure supply deal for Calaca

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Management Corp. (PSALM) said it was working on securing power supply contracts for at least half of the 600-megawatt Calaca coal-fired power plant before setting a new bidding date for this asset.

In an interview on the sidelines of yesterday's Joint Congressional Power Commission hearing, PSALM president Nieves Osorio said the privatization body knew how important attached power supply contracts were to the success of the auction.

"We want to get supply contracts for the plant first, maybe for around half of its capacity," she said.

Calaca currently has power supply contracts for only about 83 MW.

PSALM tried selling Calaca twice, but both auctions were declared failure. The first was because only one bidder, First Generation Luzon Power Corp., showed up at the auction.

The second was declared a failure as the two bidders, First Gen and DMCI Holdings Inc., failed to meet the $288-million reserve price for the plant.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri earlier said PSALM should first secure power supply contracts with power distributors, particularly with the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co., before proceeding with the sale of National Power Corp.'s generation assets.

Neri, also a member of the PSALM board, said this was a lesson learned from the botched sale of the 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales, which was sold as a merchant plant or without an attached power supply contract.

"The failure of the Masinloc winning bidder, YNN (Pacific Consortium Inc.), to secure a power supply contract underscores the importance of concluding negotiations between Napocor and electric distributors for power supply contracts prior to bidding, as stipulated in the (Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001)," he said.

He said the bidding for the Calaca plant in Batangas might again fail if a supply deal with Meralco or any other off-takers were not secured.

Smuggling deadly diseases into RP

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

SMUGGLING IS A CURSE. IT DEprives our government of tax revenues needed to fund many of the social services needed by our poor. It poses unfair competition to our businesses, which provide needed goods and services. Jobs are lost and poverty further increases.

But the most harmful smuggling is that of deadly diseases. This happens when products without the required phytosanitary clearances are smuggled. These products often carry with them deadly diseases that contaminate our own locally produced products.

When they spread, they add to our disease prevention task, since we do not know how to combat with these unknown diseases yet. Also, our health is jeopardized.

Recent reports

This past week, Alyansa Agrikultura leaders from the National Federation of Hog Farmers, Benguet Vegetable Farmers and Distributors Cooperative and Kilusang Mangingisda reported smuggled pork, carrots and vannamei (Pacific White Shrimp), respectively. While the Bureau of Customs should be commended for the apprehensions of smuggled goods, much has yet to be done.

An important move is to implement Rep. Mario Aguja's recommendation: "We should stop being the only country in the world that does customs valuation before quarantine inspection." This current practice results in goods being smuggled in, without the Department of Agriculture's knowledge, because the quarantine inspection is sometimes intentionally skipped. The resulting danger is that deadly diseases spread throughout the country.

Sustainable aquaculture

Yesterday marked the conclusion of the two-day "Conference on Sustainable Aquaculture" organized by the Tambuyog Development Center and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Board. It was during this conference that the smuggling of vannamei came up.

Kilusang Mangingisda chair Pablo Rosales said, "Talking about sustainable aquaculture practices in the Philippines becomes meaningless if the smuggling of aquaculture products with diseases is not stopped immediately."

Vannamei smuggling was reported to have occurred between June 10 -20, 2006. Arsenio Tanchuling, TDC executive director, said that vannamei entered Cebu and was later transported to two hatcheries: One in Cebu and the other in Ipil, Sibugay Zamboanga. On Aug. 22, Chingling Tanco, FAB chair, wrote: "Aside from the two hatcheries mentioned—in Ipil and in Cebu—it has been heard also that many other new hatcheries are popping up all over the country and thus can no longer be policed."

She added, "In lieu of the fear that this potential animal poses clear danger on our native shrimp species, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources can actually impose controls on importation of brood stocks by allowing only specific pathogen free and specific pathogen resistant broodstocks."

TDC's Jaime Escober Jr. disagrees: "The problem with this is that today, we have very weak law enforcement. We therefore believe that smuggling of vannamei (that are neither SPF nor SPR) will continue. One reason is that smuggled vannamei from unreliable sources are cheaper than the SPF and SPR variety."

Escober's fear is supported by a UN Food and Agriculture Organization publication titled "Introductions and Movements of Pineaus vannamei and Pineaus stylirostis in Asia and the Pacific". In a review of vannamei introduction in several Asian countries, it states: "In nearly every case, because of the difficulty or expense involved in such introductions, combined with the impatience of shrimp farmers (who have seen declining revenues due to the effects of previously introduced viral pathogens), they have circumvented the official process and illegally brought in cheaper animals which are not certified disease-free. Such movements have already led to the introduction of at least one notifiable and serious pathogen of cultured and wild shrimp."

Not ready

In view of the above, TDC stated its official position last Aug. 22: "We are unable to stop smuggling of vannamei. We don't have the capacity to monitor and prevent the spread of shrimp diseases at present. Our local aquaculture operators continue to practice unsustainable methods that contribute to the spread of shrimp diseases, such as overstocking, overfeeding and overuse of antibiotics."

Perhaps there is a way to guarantee that only SPF and SPR vannamei broodstock will be allowed into this country. But it is wiser to determine first the government's political will to stop the importation of deadly diseases. For example, the government should penalize the people involved in the vannamei smuggling last June, as well as punish those local aquaculture operators who practice unsustainable illegal methods. We must also follow the rest of the world in conducting quarantine inspection before, not after, customs valuation to identify the possible presence of deadly diseases before the shipment goes out of the port.

When it is proven that the government's political will and readiness are present, we can then proceed to the next step of allowing the importation of SPF and SPR vannamei. Otherwise, we will jump from the frying pan into the fire.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8522112.)

Banks urged to lend more to boost growth

ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY ROMULO Neri has criticized what he described as anemic lending by the country's banking sector, saying this has prevented the country's economy to grow further despite the growing liquidity in the system.

He said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had been "too nice" with private banks, not requiring them to lend enough money to achieve the goal of boosting investments.

"The problem now is what to do with the cash floating in the system. There is lost opportunity for growth because there is so much money floating in the system but so little is being used," Neri said in an economic briefing yesterday.

The country's chief economist noted that the country's savings rate has already substantially increased, but this has not been accompanied by growth in bank lending.

He insinuated that banks have not played much role in helping boost the economy through higher lending to businesses, blaming their huge incomes from merely parking funds as deposits to the BSP. The BSP's interest rate for deposits stands at 7.5 percent.

Neri noted that the amount of savings as a percentage of gross domestic product had already grown to 20 percent from only 16 percent in 2000. Savings as a percentage of gross national product, which includes saved remittances from overseas Filipino workers, was now at 30 percent from only 20 percent in 2000.

Despite the increase in savings, however, Neri said bank lending has been weak. Data from the BSP showed that lending by commercial banks declined by 0.6 percent year-on-year to P1.584 trillion last June 2006. In the previous month, lending posted a measly growth of 1.1 percent.

Outstanding loans to most sectors declined in June, particularly for construction (-12.7 percent); agriculture (-8.0 percent); manufacturing (-7.1 percent); electricity, gas and water (-5.8 percent); and transport, storage and communication (-4.9 percent).

He urged the BSP's Monetary Board to prod banks to lend more and suggested that their capitalization be increased so that more loans may be covered.

Congress should also speed up the passage of a bill creating a credit information bureau, which is expected to encourage banks to lend more. A credit information bureau will help banks get information on credit standing of loan applicants.

As a response to the criticism by Neri, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the BSP could only encourage banks to lend more but it could not compel them to increase lending.

"It (increase lending) is a business decision on the part of the banks. The way to do it is explore any regulatory policies to encourage, but to compel them to lend and provide resources is another issue," he said. *Michelle V. Remo*

₱58B in new bonds swapped for old securities

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SWAPPED P58 billion worth of newly issued 10-year treasury bonds with old government securities, a move that would stretch the average maturity of government debts and boost liquidity in the capital market.

The original plan was to swap only P20 billion worth of new 10-year bonds for existing government securities but the market showed strong interest in the exercise, with banks offering to swap as much as P59 billion worth of their holdings. This prompted the Bureau of Treasury to raise the volume of securities offered for swapping to P58 billion.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the swap brought about the largest single issue of government securities in the domestic market.

The coupon rate for the new 10-year bonds was set at 9.125 percent, while the maturity will be in September 2016.

Credit Suisse First Boston served as financial arranger for this swap, which was the third bond exchange done this year. The first, held in February, involved the exchange of fresh 3- and 5-year bonds, while the second was held in March and involved 7 year-bonds.

"We are proud to say that the objectives we laid out at the beginning of the year have been achieved," Cruz said in a statement.

Under a bond swap, the government issues new bonds and exchanges them for old government securities that are already about to mature. In effect, the average maturity of the government's debts is stretched.

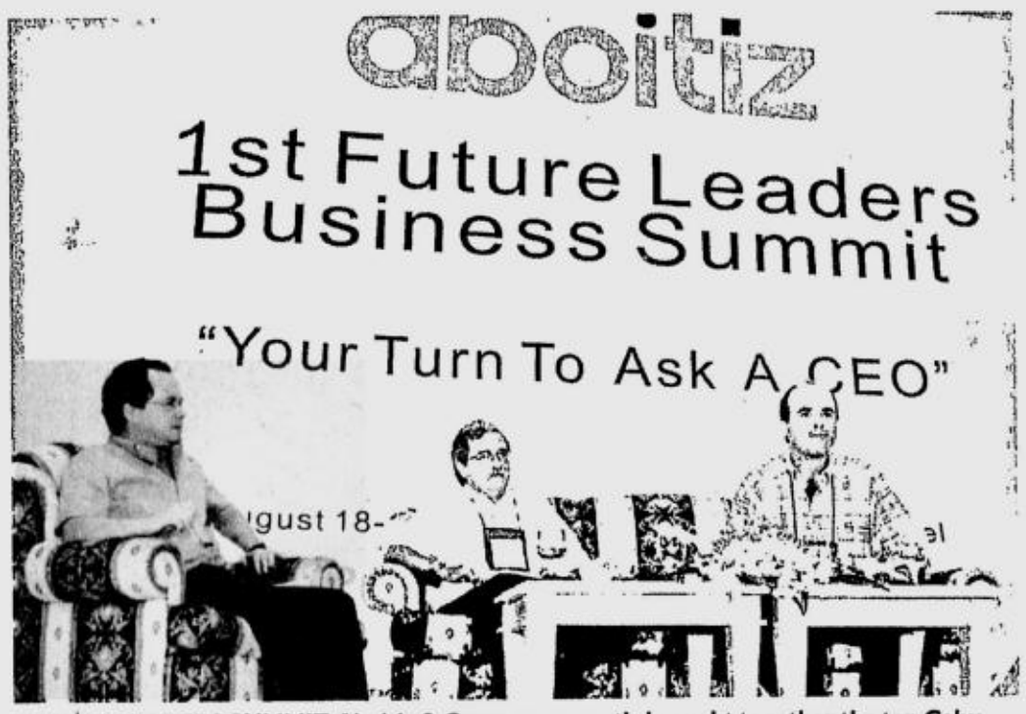
Investors benefit from the swap as they are given higher yields on their investments. In a bond swap, new interest rates are set for the newly issued securities.

Those invited to engage in the swap were those whose government securities were maturing anytime between September 2007 and April 2016. The bond swap was voluntary on the part of holders of government securities.

During the previous swaps for 3-, 5- and 7-year bonds, the government exchanged a total of P122 billion worth of new bonds.

"We are very pleased with the success of this exchange, which along with the exchanges conducted earlier this year, shows how the government and the private sector can work together to develop the Philippine capital markets," said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves in the same statement.

Fiscal authorities said the bond swap, which they call the "Debt Consolidation Program," is part of efforts to revitalize the domestic capital market and therefore reduce dependence on foreign borrowings.



FUTURE LEADERS SUMMIT. Aboitiz & Company recently brought together the top Cebu-based third and fourth year college students for the first Aboitiz Future Leaders Business Summit. The summit aims to provide students with a preview of the corporate world. On hand to give them advice were top Aboitiz group leaders including (from left) Andoni Aboitiz, president of Aboitiz Land, Roberto E. Aboitiz, chair of Aboitiz Equity Ventures and Txabi Aboitiz, senior vice president for group human resources.

Transco to require $700M in additional investments

By Dennis Jay C. Santos and Judy Quiros
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—INVESTORS THAT will take over the operation of National Transmission Corp. are expected to invest some $700 million to upgrade the transmission line system.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said in a briefing here that the winning bidder for Transco's operations would need to double the current transmission reach of 22,000 kilometers to meet future demand.

He said the $700-million investment would cover the first five years of the 25-year concession agreement.

Ortiz said, however, that taking over Transco was an attractive proposition considering that the winning bidder would be assured of a return on equity before tax of about 18.2 percent.

"After tax, it's about 15.7 percent. This is a very reasonable return on investment equity," Ortiz said.

Ortiz said he expected the privatization of Transco's operations to be completed by the end of the year with as many as 12 investors having expressed interest to take part in the privatization effort dubbed the "biggest in history."

But while Transco's operation was being privatized, Ortiz said the government would retain control of its assets, estimated at $2 billion.

Militant groups like Bayan Muna had criticized the government's privatization plan saying it would trigger sharp increases in electricity rates.

But Ortiz said there would still be "substantial consumer protection" even with the entry of a private firm.

"The operator is mandated to return [excess] earnings," he said.

Jeppie Ramada, Bayan Muna coordinator in Southern Mindanao, also said the government gave a shallow reason for privatizing Transco.

"The government is hastening the privatization of Transco to beat the deadline of disposing all power assets by year 2008. This is to catch up with the ballooning debt of the National Power Corp. and other power industries, which is about to burst in the coming years," he said.

Money needed to upgrade power lines

PPA to expand Sarangani port

DAVAO CITY—THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUthority (PPA) has approved a P43-million port development project for Balut Island in Sarangani, Davao del Sur.

The project will cover the construction of a rock causeway, Roll-On Roll-Off (RoRo) ramp, mooring system and the installation of a port lighting system.

"The approval of this project will boost the economy of Balut Island, which remains secluded from the mainstream due to the absence of a functional port," Abdussabor Sawadjaan, PPA Southern Mindanao port district manager, said.

Sawadjaan said the budget for the project would be taken from PPA's corporate funds.

He said the construction would replace the deteriorating Mabila port, which is not designed to accommodate large vessels.

Sawadjaan said regular and chartered boats for cargo and commuters from Mabila Port usually pass through the Patuco wharf in Sarangani.

"This is a crucial link necessary for the consolidation and exchange of agricultural produce going to other economic centers such as General Santos City, Davao City, Glan in Sarangani province and Malita in Davao del Sur," he said. ***Joselle dR. Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao***

Flying V sets up station in Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—OFFIcials of petroleum company Flying V have signed an agreement with the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) to put up a P50-million alternative fuel facility here.

In a statement, Victor Jose Luciano, CDC executive vice president, said Flying V-Clark would offer biodiesel, ethanol-blended gasoline and other petroleum products.

He said Flying V was the first firm to offer alternative fuels in this special economic zone.

The agreement, he said, would support the government's alternative fuels program.

"We welcome the entry of Flying V-Clark in the economic zone. This is the first facility that will provide our locators cost efficient fuels that comply with the Clean Air Act," Luciano said. ***Jun Malig, Inquirer Central Luzon***

Oil firms urged to open depots in Lanao, Maguindanao

By Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

PARANG, MAGUINDANAO—BUSInessmen from Lanao and Maguindanao will ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to convince the local oil companies to resume the operation of their mothballed oil depots here.

The Iranon Chamber of Commerce and Industry and traders from Cotabato and Marawi City said Malacañang's intervention could alleviate their problem with expensive fuel.

Traders from Maguindanao and Cotabato City get their petroleum supply from Davao or General Santos while Marawi sources its fuel from Cagayan de Oro City.

High transportation costs make oil here more expensive than if depots were maintained here.

"Our fuel prices here are P1 higher (for every liter of gas bought) compared to those sold in Davao and Gen. Santos," businessman Oscar Tan Abing.

The depots were shut down in 2000 as part of security measures when former President Joseph Estrada declared an all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Camp Abubakar, the MILF's former base, is only about two hours from here.

"The President may be our last resort to end this fuel misery," Haron Bandila, chair of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Business Council, said.

Phillip Beda, ICCI secretary, said the military and the police have already made assurances that they have the capability to secure the depots from any attack.

Parang town is the seat of the ARMM police office and neighbor to the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade.

The Metro Cotabato Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Cotabato Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other business groups have also supported the plan to convince the oil companies to reopen their depots here.

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan said he would help traders bring the matter to the attention of the President.

Lanao and Maguindanao are home to banana and pineapple plantations geared for export, and cassava and coconut plantations for the local market.

Companies based here include Matling Industrial and Commercial Corp. and Lobregat Coconut Plantation.

People, Events & Products

CEM presents papers on assessment in int'l confab

THE CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL Measurement (CEM) presented two critical papers on assessment during the 32nd Annual Conference of the International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA) held in Singapore recently.

Hosted by the Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board, the conference had representatives from 24 countries presenting papers and facilitating discussions under the conference theme "Assessment in an Era of Rapid Change: Innovations and Best Practices". The delegates were composed of top-level officials of national examination and assessment boards and universities in countries such as the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Thailand, Hong Kong, and South Africa. The Center for Educational Measurement, whose delegation was led by its president Dr. Lenore Decenteceo, and Dr. James Tan, board trustee, is the only registered IAEA member from the Philippines.

Ma. Angeles Sampang and Jason Moseros of the CEM test development unit presented a paper titled "Redesigning the CEM Mathematics Diagnostic Tests as Developmental Assessment Instruments". Adopted from the system used by the Australian Council for Educational Research, the new design includes progress maps, which show a learner's skills and knowledge along a typical sequence of development as he moves within one grade level, and from a lower to a higher level. The redesigned CEM diagnostic tests then produce results which can clearly trace the student's progress in the subject.

Based on the notion that a student's competence in an area of learning improves over time, this approach is regarded as a "notable attempt to measure growth in competence and to convey the nature of student achievement in ways that can benefit teaching and learning", according to Decenteceo. Since competencies measured by the tests are not only aligned to the Basic Education Curriculum, but also reinforced with topics commonly taken up by private schools in the country, teachers can safely guide the students towards desired standards.

In their paper, Jesus Sevilla Jr and Kathryn Tan of the CEM research unit made a presentation on "Identifying Patterns of Skills Acquisition in Elementary Mathematics among a Cohort Group of Pupils: Implications to Teaching and Learning". This study showed how test results can help identify patterns of skills that differentiate between good and poor performers in elementary mathematics. CEM identified good and poor performers in mathematics based on the cumulative performance scores of 1,347 pupils tested consecutively for six school years. Discussion was focused on the area of fractions, and the use of item analysis procedures.

One of the interesting findings in the study is that both good and poor performers acquire the ability to identify fraction concepts from illustrations, and that some pupils could manage problems and computations. The results also showed how proficiency might be demonstrated without necessarily implying mastery of underlying concepts. Such findings are used to guide educators in programming mathematical strategies in their schools.

The presentations made by CEM to the international community of educators and assessment experts demonstrate its solid commitment to promote educational excellence. Using knowledge acquired over the past 27 years as the pioneer in educational research and assessment in the Philippines, CEM seeks to aid educational reform by improving the process of learning and measuring growth. Its network of three branches and 19 testing centers all over the country expertly serves more than 1,000 schools, through locally developed tests that align assessment to competency development.

UPSE '81 HOMECOMING

UPSE'81, Silver Jubilarians, host for this year's 'Bak2Skul of Economics', UPSE 2006 Homecoming on Sept. 16, met recently amidst preparations for the homecoming. Shown seated are Gladys T. Cruz, Viqui T. del Rosario, Gootzie E. Herrera, and Pinky B. Lapuz. At the back are Rey Orsolino, Adele J. Aquitana, Joji Jolejole, Bob Medalla, Jun Nazareno and Manny Malabanan. The batch is inviting all alumni of the UP School of Economics to the affair which will be held at the D. Macapagal Hall, UPSE Library Building, Diliman, Quezon City. Registration starts at 4 p.m. Co-jubilarians are UPSE '76-Pearl, UPSE '71-Coral; and UPSE '81-Ruby. For ticket inquiries and other details, call Rose San Pascual, UP Public Affairs Office at 920-5481 or 927-9686 loc 242.

PETRON REVS UP AAP AUTO SHOW

Inking the deal are (from left) Automobile Association of the Philippines director David L. Arcenas, Wilfredo Toledo, technical services manager of Petron Corp, AAP president Augusto C. Lagman, Charmaine V. Canillas, Petron advertising and promotions manager, and AAP director Ronald Reidenbach. The AAP Auto Show put together the biggest names in motor sports and auto industries. Car and truck manufacturers, assemblers, makers and dealers of auto parts and accessories, oil and alternative fuel companies, service shops and maintenance companies, government agencies and related associations actively took part in the well-attended 3-day event.

FVR to keynote 9th Asfaa congress

NO LESS THAN FORMER PRESIdent President Fidel V. Ramos will keynote the forthcoming 9th Asiania Sport For All Association (ASFAA) Congress set to happen on Nov. 25 to 28 at Bayview Park Hotel, Manila and Clamshell, Intramuros.

FVR is known to be a great sportsman as evident in the numerous activities, during his term, supporting sports development especially the concerns of producing healthy, alert committed and highly motivated Filipino athletes, competing in international competitions.

The congress theme is "People Empowerment for Healthy and Strong Nations". The 9th Asfaa Congress is organized by the Philippine Sport For All Association International Inc headed by professor Ma. Josefina V. Bauzon in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority, Fitness Network Philippines, the Cities of Manila and Muntinlupa, Philippine Normal University, Department of Interior and Local Government and Tafisa.

Rotary International District 3810 leads APRRC conference

THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL ROTARACT CONFERENCE (APRRC)-Pilipinas 2006 is ongoing until Sept. 2 in Tagaytay City. The biggest Rotaract gathering in the Asia Pacific Region has adopted the theme "Rotaract: Together Making a Difference" for this third annual event with Rotary International District 3810 led by district governor Lyne A. Abanilla as the lead district host. Tracing its roots in Hong Kong, the first ever conference was held at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University August 2004 hosted by RI District 3450 composed of clubs from Hong Kong, Macau, and Mongolia. The 2nd was held in Taiwan hosted by RI District 3480. This year, APRRC-Pilipinas 2006 hopes to invite all Rotaractors from the Asia Pacific region and equip them with new ideas and knowledge that would be useful in developing their personality and skills as future leaders of society. APRRC was launched July 15 at Mcafe in Greenbelt, Makati. Fellowship parties for three nights features country cultural dances and songs, artists concert and the Filipino traditional fiesta.

'Children's Letters to God' auditions set Sunday

"CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD" will be staged by Actor's Actors Inc and Silang Communications starting Nov. 24 at Megamall Centerstage 9. Stuart Hample, the creator of the best-selling book, has adapted "Children's Letters to God" from the page to the stage with music by David Evans ("Birds of Paradise") and lyrics by Douglas J. Cohen ("No Way to Treat a Lady"). Bart Guingona directs with Denisa Reyes' musical staging, musical direction by Ceejay Javier and vocal coaching by Michael Williams. Auditions will be held to cast the roles of the five young friends on Sept 3, 1 p.m. at The Repertory Rehearsal Hall C-A Building C, Karrivin Plaza Building, 2316 Pasong Tamo Extensions, Makati. Young singers/actors/actresses ranging from 8 to 15 years are invited. Bring a minus one or a music piece. Interested parties can call Abie at 0921-3250833. The show is now also available for block buyers, sponsorships as well as fund-raising opportunities.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARY OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 Email: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of five (5) units Multimedia Projectors

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of P500,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of five (5) units Multimedia Projectors*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of five (5) units Multimedia Projectors.* Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *September 21, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on October 6, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *October 6, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person - *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address - *Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone No. - *(632) 455-2758*
e-mail address - *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No. - *(632) 455-2758*
Website - *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Sept 1 & 8, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE

Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contracts:

General Information
Title : Cebu Priority Bridges 2006
Scope : Construction of Concrete Bridges (RCBC, RCPC, FS, PSG & RCDG)
Particulars :

Package	ABC (PhP)	Duration (c.d.)	PCAB Category ARCC-based	Location ARCC-based	Plans & Bid Documents
I	3,413,027.71	120	Small B	Southern Cebu	P 3,000.00
II	10,197,280.77	170	Small B	Western Cebu	5,000.00
III	12,150,159.65	180	Small B	Northern Cebu	5,000.00
IV	5,473,497.88	100	Small B	Camotes Island	4,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the ABC per project number, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening and in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Submission of Eligibility Documents / Statements and Screening, Bid and Performance Securities, Pre-bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract, shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).
The schedule of activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	August 25 – Sept. 1, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 25 – Sept. 1, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 1, 2006
4. Notice of Eligibility Check Results	September 7, 2006
5. Issuance of Plans and Bid Documents	September 11, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	September 13, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 25, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent stating and specifying therein which project number/s they intend to undertake, and payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) for each project number to the Cash Division. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The Secretariat will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA who are found to be eligible to bid, upon payment to the Cash Division a non-refundable amount above-stated.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

Dates of Ads: Aug. 25 & Sept. 1, 2006
Posted at PGSO: PIO & www.cebu.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE

Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Proposed 100-Bed Carcar Provincial Hospital
Location : Carcar, Cebu
Brief Description : Upgrading of existing district hospital
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 68,668,074.70
Contract Duration : 365 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Aug.25-Sept.1, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Aug.25-Sept.1, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 1, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 7, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	September 11, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	September 13, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 25, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P 20,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

August 25 & Sept. 1, 2006
Posted at the PGSO, Capitol Bldg.,
Prov'l Information Office & at
www.cebu.gov.ph

TransCo

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of In-Circuit and Board Test/Electronics Diagnostic Workstation

[Reference No.: PB060213-EL0017(PB2)]

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board,* intends to apply the sum of ***Php 5,830,000.00*** being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of In-Circuit and Board Test/Electronics Diagnostic Workstation**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Electronics Diagnostic Workstation.* Delivery of the GOODS is required *within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting August 24, 2006 to September 13, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).* The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 4, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at same address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 14, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount	
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php	58,300.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php	87,450.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php	145,750.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php	5,830,000.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on September 14, 2006 / 2:00 p.m. at the *Admin Conference Room, same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: (632) 981-2235 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug 25 & Sept 1 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Regional Office No. VIII
Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Tel Nos (053) 323-3084, 323-3075 • Fax No 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PLASTIC CONTAINERS FOR NFA REGION VIII

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), through its Corporate Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of SIX MILLION ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY PESOS (P6,001,380.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the procurement contract of Plastic Containers intended for the Food for School Program of NFA-DepEd and DSWD in Region VIII for school year 2006-2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NFA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders to supply the required Plastic Containers of NFA Region VIII with the following information and specifications:

Size 6 ¾ x 10 x 15mm
Capacity 1kg

Initial delivery of the GOODS is required within Ten (10) calendar days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed and the balance can be made on a staggered basis. Summary of quantity and total amount of ABC follows:

Lot No.	NFA Prov Office	QUANTITY (More or Less)	UNIT	ABC Per Unit	Total Amount of ABC (More or Less)
1	N Leyte	1,741,000	Piece	P 0.66	P 1,149,060.00
2	S Leyte	1,586,000	Piece	0.66	1,046,760.00
3	W Samar	1,864,000	Piece	0.66	1,230,240.00
4	N Samar	2,204,000	Piece	0.66	1,454,640.00
5	E Samar	1,698,000	Piece	0.66	1,120,680.00
	TOTAL	9,093,000			P 6,001,380.00

The bidders may bid for as many lots as he/she is interested.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NFA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Secretariat, NFA Regional Office No. 8, Pawing, Palo, Leyte.

A complete set of Bidding Documents can be obtained by Interested Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable Bidding fee of P1,000.00 in cash per Lot.

The Bidding Schedule is as follows:

	Date	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	Aug. 30 to Sept. 8, 2006 (8:00 am-5:00 pm)	NFA RO8, Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Pre-Bidding Conference	Sept. 12, 2006 (9:30 am)	NFA Conf. Rm. Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Submission & Opening of Bids	Sept. 25, 2006 (9:30 am)	-do-

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered during the bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check (Cashier's or Manager's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank issued in Tacloban City — 1% of ABC
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand" - 2.5% of ABC

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority.

The NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders, for any expense incurred in the preparation of bid documents.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO J. ADORABLE**
Asst. Regional Manager/
Chairman-RBAC, NFA RO8

(PDI–August 26 & Sept. 1, 2006)

WINROCK INTERNATIONAL

Putting Ideas to Work

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Alliance for Mindanao and Multi-Regional Off-grid Renewable Energy (AMORE 2) Program is a five (5) year project being implemented by Winrock International (WI) in partnership with US Agency for International Development (USAID), Department of Energy (DOE), Mirant Philippines Foundation, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). AMORE 2 aims to contribute to the peace and development initiatives in Mindanao by improving the quality of life in 200 unelectrified rural communities through sustainable renewable energy projects and effective community organizing.

The objective of this procurement is to solicit responsive offers from qualified suppliers to submit proposals on the supply, delivery and installation of 1,380 units of 20 Wp Solar Home Systems in 46 barangays in the Provinces of Maguindanao, Zamboanga del Sur, and Tawi-Tawi.

Expression of Interest (EOI) must be made in writing and delivered, emailed, or faxed to the address indicated below not later than 5:00 pm of September 08, 2006.

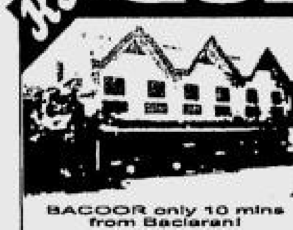
AMORE Office
Unit 1509 Jollibee Plaza
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
Tel. No. +63 (2) 687-9091 to 92
Fax. No. +63 (2) 631-8215
email: info@amore.org.ph

All EOIs shall be evaluated by the AMORE-MIRANT Technical Review and Awards Team. Bidders shall be provided with a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) kit starting September 08, 2006. A pre-bid conference shall also be convened five (5) days after the issuance of RFP to discuss details and accommodate inquiries. Only DOE-accredited bidders shall be awarded the contract. Pre-qualified organizations shall be notified via fax or e-mail.

WI has been authorized to manage the procurement process. As such, WI reserves the right to reject any or all applications for pre-qualification, waive any required formality therein, and accept the bid and award the subcontract to the most advantageous offer to the project. WI assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee an award will be made.

(PDI – September 1, 2006)

RSG GUEVENTHOMES



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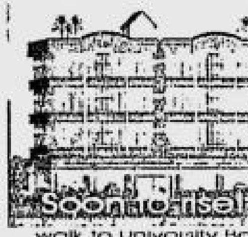

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

To any person with information on the whereabouts of **GENEVIEVE DELA CRUZ-SANTOS** (nee Romero), born on November 7, 1963 and with last known address at No. 10 C. Ruiz St., San Juan, Metro Manila and 25-A Far East Asia Village, Marcos Hi-way, Antipolo, Rizal, please contact the Law Office of **LUIS MA. JOSE G. SISON & ASSOCIATES** at telephone nos. 6874390 & 634-8139 (look for Ann)

Any assistance in locating the aforesaid person will be highly appreciated

(PDI Aug 31 & Sept 1, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court through the Committee on Bids invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid as follows:

Name of Project	Approved Budget	Source of Funding
LOT 1		
Printing of 10,000 copies of 2007 Court Calendar	P1,088,000.00	General Appropriations Act – CY 2006
LOT 2		
Printing of 4,000 copies of Cash Books	P1,874,000.00	SC-PHILIA PMC Trust Fund
LOT 3		
Pest and Termite Control Services for the Supreme Court (2006-2007)	P900,000.00	General Appropriations Act – CY 2006
LOT 4		
Janitorial Services for the Supreme Court (2006-2007)	P5,965,000.00	General Appropriations Act – CY 2006

PERIOD OF DELIVERY/CONTRACT:
Lot 1 and lot 2 – Thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order (P.O.)
Lot 3 and lot 4 – One (1) calendar year

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

I. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

The Pre-bid conference will be held on the following schedule:

Date : **September 08, 2006, (Friday) for lot 1 and lot 2**
September 15, 2006, (Friday) for lot 3
September 20, 2006, (Wednesday) for lot 4
Venue : **Session Hall, 3rd FLoor Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila**
Time : **2:00 p.m. for lot 1, and lot 2**
2:00 p.m. for lot 3
2:00 p.m. for lot 4

II. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS**

On the bidding, the legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative, and the bids will be opened, thereafter, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives, to be held on the following schedule:

Date : **September 22, 2006, (Friday) for lot 1 and lot 2**
September 29, 2006, (Friday) for lot 3
October 04, 2006, (Wednesday) for lot 4
Venue : **Session Hall, 3rd Floor Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila**
Time : **2:00 p.m. for lot 1, and lot 2**
2:00 p.m. for lot 3
2:00 p.m. for lot 4

Prospective bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or its Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Interested bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the **Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, 3rd Floor Annex Building, Supreme Court**, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) each for Lot-1, Lot-2,** and **Lot-3**, and **One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)** for **Lot 4**, prior to the conduct of pre-bid conference. For additional information, the bidders may contact the **Secretary, Atty. Ennar R.C. Cabanilla** at **telefax no. 5251270** or **Ms. Norma C. Josue** at **tel. no. 5266419.**

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to: 1) reject any or all bids, 2) waive any defects or informalities therein, 3) or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

August 24, 2006.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairperson

By: (Sgd.) **FELIPA B. ANAMA**
Vice-Chairperson

(PDI–August 25 & Sept. 1, 2006)

Home Guaranty Corporation
Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for public bidding:

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
1	B30 L30 Wood Estate Village, Molino 2, Bacoor, Cavite	House & lot	25	35	335,500.00	illegaly occupied
2	B2 L30, Villa Elisa Homes, Anabu, Imus, Cavite	House & lot	24	57	276,430.00	illegaly occupied
3	B18 L31 Goldenville Subd I, Sabang, Dasmariñas Cavite	House & lot	56	35	585,200.00	illegaly occupied
4	B5 L4 Regency Exec. Townhouse, Malinta, Dasmariñas Cavite	House & lot	72	50	715,000.00	illegaly occupied
5	B10 L64 Regency Exec. Townhouse, Malinta, Dasmariñas Cavite	House & lot	60	48	642,400.00	illegaly occupied
6	B12 L3 Villa Luisa Homes, Langkaan, Dasmariñas Cavite	House & lot	56.	35	415,800.00	illegaly occupied
7	B17 L17 Summer Meadows Subd., Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	House & lot	80	80	985,600.00	illegaly occupied
8	Unit 58-C Cluster Kalaw, Vista Loro Heights, Puerto Azul, Ternate, Cavite	Condominium	81.86		2,971,518.00	illegaly occupied
9	Unit 1421, Valle Verde FM III (BLCA), Bo. Ugong, Pasig City	Condominium	60.48		2,062,500.00	vacant
10	U-333 B-C1, Cattleya Homes, R.Cruz St, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City	Condominium	21.72		334,400.00	illegaly occupied
11	L44B1 Marian Lakeview Park, San Martin de Porres, Parañaque City	House & lot	88	87	750,200.00	illegaly occupied
12	341 Wayan St., Barangka Ibaba, Mandaluyong City	House & lot	247	416	6,441,600.00	Vacant
13	Viscaya St. Brgy. Obrero, Caloocan City	House & lot	93	111	845,900.00	illegaly occupied
14	Makinis cor. Carville Sts., Carville Subd., Tanza, Navotas, M.Mla	House & lot	138	95	1,318,900.00	illegaly occupied
15	South East end Rio de Janeiro St., BF International, Talon 3, Las Piñas	Lot only		1138	3,504,600.00	vacant
16	B1L1 Ponderosa Heights, San Pablo, Antipolo City	Lot only		322	424,600.00	vacant
17	B5L6, Maris Townhomes, San Jose, Antipolo City	House & lot	73	53	1,284,800.00	illegaly occupied
18	B2L28 Cherryville Subd., Taytay, Rizal	House & lot	48	48	442,200.00	vacant
19	B5L3, Bankers Village Phase 9, Guitnangbayan I, San Mateo, Rizal	House & lot	61	100	562,100.00	vacant
20	B4 LA, L & D Summerville Subd., Pansol, Calamba City	House & lot	76	72	631,400.00	illegaly occupied
21	B10L4, Soriente Subd., Tugatog, Meycauayan, Bulacan	House & lot	203	270	1,775,400.00	illegaly occupied
22	B3L21&22, Florida St. Rocka Exec. Vill., Balagtas, Bulacan	House & lot	269.5	360	3,702,600.00	illegaly occupied

FOR INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-49 OR VISIT OUR HEAD OFFICE AT JADE BLDG. NO. 335 SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.

(SGD.) **RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS**
OIC-VICE PRESIDENT
PROJECT MANAGEMENT/ACQUIRED ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI–Sept. 1, 2006)

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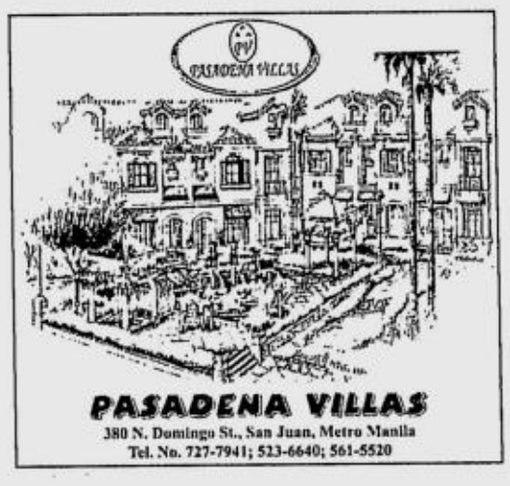

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Metro Manila Festivities for the Miraculous Virgin of Peñafrancia

THE FEAST OF THE MIRACULOUS VIRGIN OF Peñafrancia, will be celebrated in Metro Manila from Sept. 7-10, 2006.

The Metro Manila festivities, spearheaded by the Peñafrancia Devotees Association, Inc., will honor "Ina" with a motorcade at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 7, around the streets of Mandaluyong and Makati, and visiting the Mandaluyong Medical Center and Mandaluyong City Hall. The motorcade will end at the St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church (N. Garcia St., Bel-Air, Makati City), where welcome ceremonies will be held at 5:30 p.m., to be followed by the first of the triduum of novena/masses at 6 p.m.. The novena and masses will be held from Sept. 7-9, also at the St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church.

On Sunday, Sept. 10, 2006, there will be a motorcade at 2:30 p.m. from St. Andrew the Apostle Church to the Post Office Building at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila. Then, female volunteers and devotees will take turns in carrying the image of "Ina" in a foot procession to the Manila Cathedral. The highlight of the celebration is a concelebrated high mass led by Bishop Nestor C. Cariño at the Manila Cathedral at 6 p.m.

For further inquiries, please call the Peñafrancia Devotees Association Secretariat at telephone numbers 531-5177, 531-8797, 532-6334, 531-9430 or 724-3244.

Viva La Virgen! Viva el Divino Rostro!

More Classified Ads:
National Food Authority A6
and Philippine Ports Authority
PEZA and Lanao del Sur A8
Southern Isabela and Margosatubig
Regional Hospital A10

OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Norma C. Sadac

who peacefully joined her Creator on August 19, 2006 at the age of 66

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

We lovingly remember our beloved Mama on her

FORTY SEVENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Eufemia Cruz Ventanilla

a loving mother

of Cabanatuan City and Calumpit, Bulacan
who died on September 2, 1959

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow at the following churches:

1.	**Saint Basil Church**, *Brecksville, Ohio*	9:00 AM
2.	**Saint Nicholas Tolentine Cathedral**, *Cabanatuan City*	All Masses
3.	**Our Lady of Fatima Parish**, *Philamlife Homes, Las Piñas, Metro Manila*	All Masses
4.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary**, *Multinational Village, Parañaque, Metro Manila*	All Masses
5.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary**, *Rosario Complex, San Pedro, Laguna*	All Masses
6.	**Sto. Niño de Cebu Parish**, *Biñan, Laguna*	All Masses
7.	**Parish of the Holy Sacrifice**, *U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City*	All Masses
8.	**Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish**, *Katipunan Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City*	All Masses
9.	**St. James the Great**, *Alabang Village, Muntinlupa*	All Masses
10.	**St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Parish** *Ayala Alabang Village*	All Masses
11.	**Mary Help of Christians Parish**, *Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque*	All Masses
12.	**Immaculate Conception Parish**, *Concepcion, Marikina City*	6:00 AM

Her surviving children **Dra. Gloria V. Apolonio, Atty. Oscar C. Ventanilla Jr.**, and **Mrs. Rosalinda V. Escaño**, sons and daughters-in-law, and grandchildren, request relatives, friends, and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Death Notice

EMILIANO R. MEDINA
Peacefully joined his Creator on August 29, 2006 at the age of 71.

His body lies in state at No. 2 Gallego St., Phase 9F, Vista Verde Executive Village, Cainta, Rizal.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 3, 2006, 3:00 p.m. at Loyola, Marikina.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Our dearly beloved

MAURO CASTILLO MENDOZA

Has finally been reunited with his wife Rizalina in the presence of our Lord on the 28th of August 2006, at the age of 91.

His children Mercy(†), Ben(†), Landa, Cecille, David(†), Angelo, Ester, Modesto(†), Noel(†) & Marie, his sons and daughters-in-law, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Ambassador Chapel of St. Peter Memorial Homes, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 2, 2006 at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park in Baesa, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

JESUS TUPPAL BAQUIRAN

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 28, 2006 at the age of 74.

His loving wife **Zenaida**; children and children-in-law **Malu & Albert, Mai & Manny, Backy & Essie, Backy & Joy**; grandchildren **Nikki, Josh, Mika & Enzo**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz, inside Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on September 2, 2006 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Paráñaque City.

MARIETTA ACUÑA SANZ
VIUDA DE BELTRÁN

mayo 1, 1906 – agosto 26, 2006

Misa de difuntos
11:30 AM, sabado, setiembre 2, 2006

Our Lady of Beautiful Love Church
Merville Park,
Parañaque City

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." Psalm 23:4

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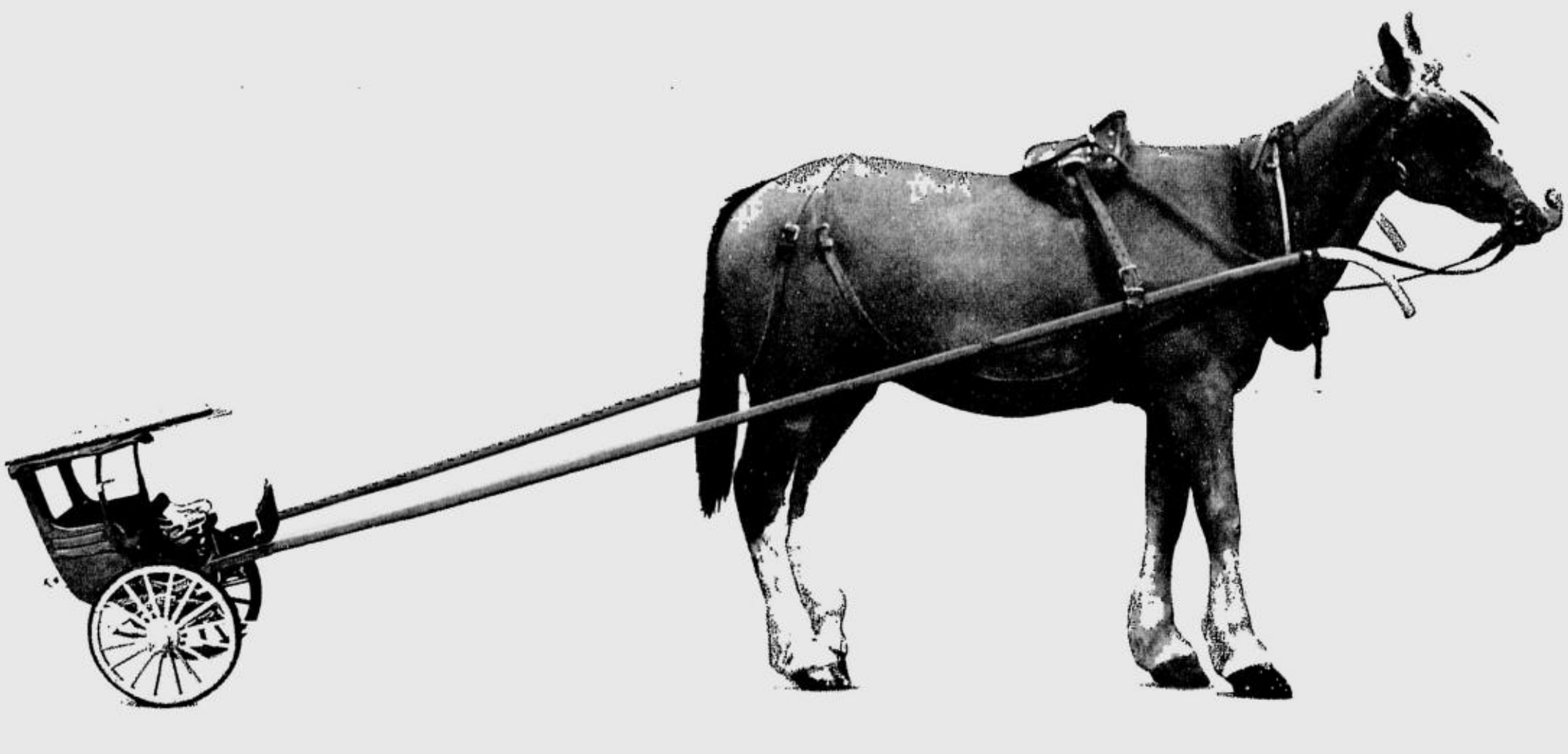

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GE imagination at work

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Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each depositor P250,000. Per DTI FAIR Permit No. 3254, Series of 2006.

substance

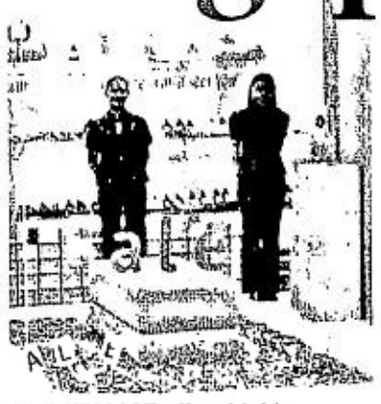
BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Singapore 'retail invasion' hits Manila

Malls becoming venue for countries' cultural events



SUBSTANCE offers highly original and eye-catching designs of bags, shoes and accessories

THE PARTNERSHIP between the SM group of taipan Henry Sy and the Keppel Group of Singapore has resulted in some sort of Singapore retail invasion in Manila with the entry of several Lion City-based brands.

The shops can be found in The Podium mall at the Ortigas Center. The Podium is a partnership between the SM Group and Keppel.

The Singaporean brands include Substance, BYSI, Myphosis, Fuzion, Crepes and Creams, and Lolo Mao.

Substance, considered one of the top five brands in Singapore, offers footwear, bags and accessories for both men and women.

Substance's target market are young fashionable women. Its shoes are made in Malaysia, Thailand, Spain and England. The brand's in-house designers trot the globe to get the latest fashion trends.

BYSI Asia Clothing Co. Pte Ltd. began in 1998 and has since made its mark both in Singapore and overseas. Founder Tan Yew Kiat's dedicated team is fueled by its members' passion for fashion and a creative spirit—all contributing to the company's success. BYSI targets mostly young female corporate executives.

CREPES and Cream's Hazelnut Banana

Fuzion Smoothie Café serves smoothies, blending together anything that is good in a fruit—without adding sugar or ice. Fuzion cafes can be found in

SINGAPORE/ B2-3

METROBANK 44

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Consider the PSBank loan and deposit products. PSBank home, auto and personal loans provide competitive interest rates, flexible product features suited to customers' distinct needs and faster processing with less documentary requirements.

Automated processing of auto loan applications allows consistent and fast approval. Credit decision can be obtained in 3 hours or less-faster than most banks. This system also allows PSBank to send SMS alerts to clients as soon as their application has been approved. The PSBank home loan only takes 5 banking days or less for a customer to get a decision on his home loan application. "TGIF" (Thank Goodness Its Five days) is a program that promises PSBank clients that if no credit decision where made in 5 days, PSBank is giving a 1% reduction on the first year interest rate for all approved home loans. An SMS-enabled loan status information system with helpful and knowledgeable PSBank staffs, all transactions will surely be easy. PSBank loans can be paid at any PSBank, Metrobank and BancNet ATM's nationwide.

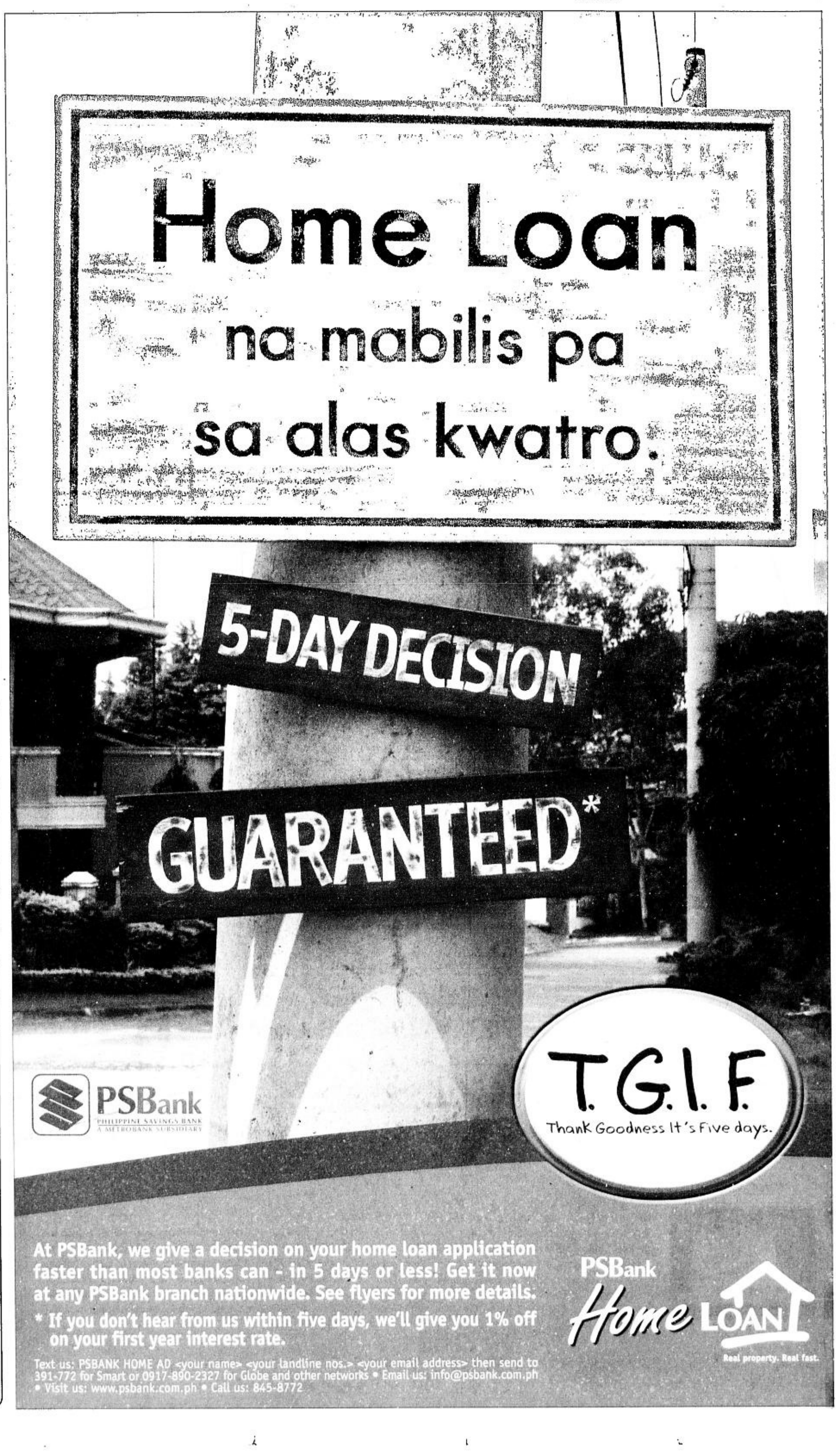
The culture of savings and relationship with the client is what PSBank have in mind when it improved its Passbook Savings account by adding a personal notes column on their passbook. PSBank encourages its clients to save and be prepared when a certain need arise. PSBank also guarantees to meet the banking needs of its clients at any of the Bank's 150 branches nationwide.

Through advanced technology, PSBank has an electronic signature verification system for simple and fast inter-branch transactions; check imaging for timely and accurate statements of account; automatic debit arrangement for hassle-free loan payments; and the shop-and-pay convenience of PSBank ATM with no additional charges for the clients.

PSBank clients also benefit from the convenience of being able to withdraw from any of the Bank's 150 branches. Where every transaction is definitely hassle free. Since everything is simplified and inter-branch transaction is fast, it is as if you are dealing with your own branch of account.

"Over time, we have established our image of being reliable and trustworthy. This is the foundation. We fuse that with initiative, with the utilization of technology, and uncomplicated product offering. We focus on a particular segment of the market. We're faster, we're friendlier, we're quicker, simple lang and maaasahan" PSBank president Pascual M. Garcia III said.

PSBank remains committed to utilizing technology in enhancing the banking experience of all its clients. It has equipped its front liners with operating systems that provide real time customer information and customer handling capability. It has also established strong operational and management information systems. ADVT



The world widely in your hands with the **Sony Ericsson M600i**

Think pocket office, web browser, multimedia player, organizer and messaging device all rolled into a slim 15mm mobile phone with 3G capability. Even with that, you've barely scratched the stylish surface of the new Sony Ericsson M600i.

Encased in Granite Black or Crystal White, the M600i is Sony Ericsson's second Symbian OS phone, and the first to directly target enterprise users. Over 600 compatible applications and utilities are available for the M600i. But out of the box, this little mobile office lets one craft business letters in MS Word, check out Excel spreadsheets, view a PowerPoint presentation or read through an Adobe PDF file.

Multitasking, whether it's browsing the Internet while making a voice call or downloading while reading email, is easily done. The phone takes full advantage of its UMTS capabilities with fast and easy email handling, even with large attachments. You can connect securely to corporate and personal emails even while on the go. Sift through your inbox, view an attachment or even print emails through a Bluetooth printer.

A range of standard and proprietary push email applications enabled for operator customization are also being developed in conjunction with a number of partners. These are: RIM - BlackBerry Connect, AlteXia, Ericsson Mobile Office (EMO) (Try and Buy), iAnywhere, OneBridge, Intellisync, Microsoft Exchange ActiveSync, Seven, Visto and Standard Email - IMAP IDLE working on all standards compliant servers.

These companies are developing a range of email solutions to enable access any time, anywhere to private or corporate email accounts.

"Estimates show that there are approximately 650 million business email users around the globe, and the demand for true mobile email is growing rapidly," says Jan Wäreby, Corporate Executive Vice President, Head of Sales and Marketing, Sony Ericsson. "While there are some standalone email messaging devices available, many people will welcome fast and easy messaging tools integrated into their mobile phone."

With its 2.6-inch TFT touchscreen at 262K colors and video playback at 30 frames per second, the M600i provides real Internet viewing and surfing pleasure. This mobile phone truly puts the worldwide web in your hands through high bandwidth multimedia downloads. Make online transactions, download videos, music or even games, preview online photo albums and movie trailers, read up on RSS feeds, update your blog, check everything from the weather to the currency exchange.

Other features of this lightweight 112-gram powerhouse are sound recorder, 3D games, MegaBassÔ sound, MP3 ringtones, calendar, timer, alarm clock, speakerphone, stopwatch, Music DJÔ for music editing, and flight mode, to access other features aboard planes.

The ergonomic design of the M600i makes it easy to operate with one hand or two and gives versatile options on how to perform tasks. The dual function keyboard makes for easy messaging input and is also the keypad for number buttons. The phone also has handwriting recognition for one to feed their QWERTY habit and use the stylus. A third way of navigating through long emails is with the innovative 3-way jog dial.

For such a slim device the M600i has an impressive 60MB onboard memory for storing email attachments and multimedia content like video clips, music files and even podcasts. An additional 64MB Memory Stick Micro™ (M2™), which is a new ultra-small recording media designed for highly compact mobile devices, is provided in the box. The M600i is the first Sony Ericsson product to feature this new memory card.

With so many connectivity possibilities, Sony Ericsson has taken great care to ensure mobile security. The M600i offers a Try and Buy package from McAfee for a powerful anti-virus and firewall software for cellular applications, and Pointsec encryption while Certicom VPN client for secure access to corporate networks is offered free of charge.

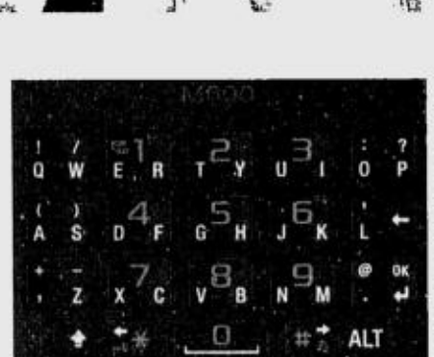
Sony Ericsson has made a masterful touch of bringing business and pleasure in just one thin device ---the M600i.

ADVT

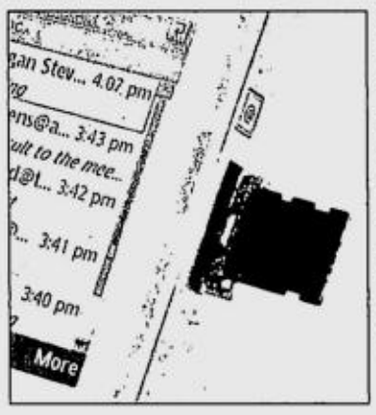
GO PLACES. STAY CONNECTED.

THE NEW **M600i.**

Your pocket office, web browser, multimedia player, organizer, messaging device, and loads more. Made with good looks to match its Granite Black or Crystal White enclosure, the capable M600i is simplicity engineered.



Different strokes for different folks
Put your point across in more ways than one. Feed your QWERTY habit and use the Dual Function Keyboard to craft all those long emails. With intelligent Handwriting Recognition built into the large colour touch screen, you can whip out the stylus and reply all your SMS by hand. Or simply point and click the on-screen keyboard for straightforward text input. And when you've got too much to handle, just reach for the Jog-Dial for easy one-handed operation.



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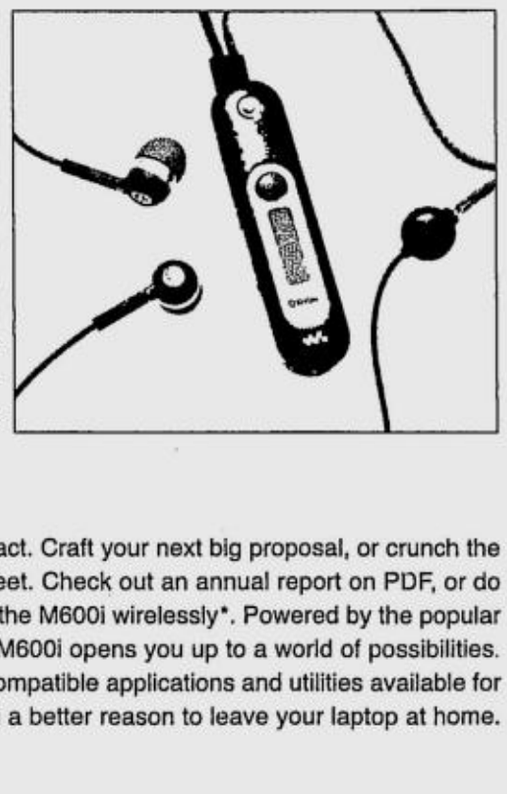
*Supports up to 1GB

Look sharp
Made with dashing good looks, the sleek, slim and smart M600i keeps up with your style as you breeze between boardrooms and designer boutiques. Its compact form factor sits perfectly well in your hand, pocket or bag.

Cut the cord
Lose the wires and still keep the music playing with the new Stereo Bluetooth™ Headset HBH-DS970. With the ability to grab music from two wireless devices simultaneously, its multipoint function turns your M600i and computer into cordless music jukeboxes instantly. See who's calling with the conveniently placed neck strap display and decide whether to take the call, or soak in the music.



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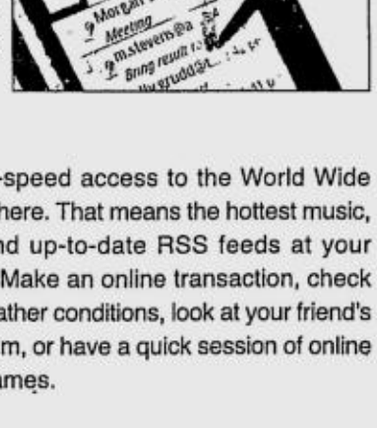
Free yourself from your desk and connect securely to both your corporate and personal emails while you're on the go. Sift through your inbox. Send an attachment. Print an attached document wirelessly from the M600i to a Bluetooth™ printer. Stay on top of everything, everywhere, everytime.



The WWW at large

Gain high-speed access to the World Wide Web anywhere. That means the hottest music, videos, and up-to-date RSS feeds at your fingertips. Make an online transaction, check out the weather conditions, look at your friend's online album, or have a quick session of online fun and games.

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The Microsoft Office, to be exact. Craft your next big proposal, or crunch the figures on an Excel spreadsheet. Check out an annual report on PDF, or do a Powerpoint presentation off the M600i wirelessly*. Powered by the popular Symbian OS, the conversant M600i opens you up to a world of possibilities. With a selection of over 600 compatible applications and utilities available for the M600i, there's never been a better reason to leave your laptop at home.
*Requires the optional MMV-200.

For further info, please call (02) 635-1860 or text SE HELP to 2960. *P 2.50 per text message

www.SonyEricsson.com/M600i

Lucena's secret...

From page B2-4

She says that last week, on the way to several meetings with prospective dealers and business partners in Metro Manila, they also took the opportunity to personally deliver the phoned-in orders in several parts of the metropolis like Alabang, Parañaque, Market! Market! Mall in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig and many other places along the route of their destination.

"We brought several hundred dozens of longganisa. Most of our deliveries were to residential houses. Some of them even deposited their advance payments through our ATM bank account," Lita says, still ecstatic with the turnout of customers.

"Most of our new orders were intended for abroad as 'pasalubong' (arrival tokens) to fellow Filipinos," Tess says.

Lita describes all their business negotiations as "positive."

"We're still finishing the finer details of the partnership," she says.

From the former average production of around 200 dozens a week, Lita says they now have to produce at least 100 dozens a day just to cope with the sudden rise in demand.

"But we're very cautious. We don't want to rush things like probable expansion, so as not to compromise the quality of the product," says his son Arnel, a radio and television broadcaster in Quezon and also a former INQUIRER correspondent.

"But definitely, we will be hiring additional workers to meet the orders," he says.

The local sausage maker says a representative from a Manila-based company also arrived in their place and offered Russian sausage casing.

Arnel says they were seriously considering the new casing due to several advantages that it offers.

"For one, there will be no more drying period of pig intestines that often becomes a problem during rainy season and also, the sizes are uniform," he says.

Tess says they used the services of a local branch of Aboitiz Transport System for the fast delivery of the sausage product to different places in the country.

In 1975, Lita's meat vendor-neighbor cajoled her to join her in the business. With the abundance of fresh meat, she improved on the basic longganisa recipe until she finally hit that distinct delightful taste which her local army of customers has been feasting on ever since.

She cherished her owned longganisa recipe like a "family secret."

Longganisa is a native sausage made from pork, beef or chicken.

It's a popular Filipino breakfast item, along with hot vinegar dip, and blends well with fried rice, egg and hot coffee or chocolate.

The seasoning varies but mostly comes in sweet and spicy. The mixed ingredients are stuffed inside dried pork intestine. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon***

"Avila's Homemade Longganisa" production shop is at Prudent St., Rosario Village, Barangay Ilayang Iyam, Lucena City. Orders can be placed at (042)7108826 and 09206011918.

Media component...

From page B2-4

Unleashing the Idea Virus by Seth Godin (2002 Simon & Schuster. Read also Seth Godin's newest book, All Marketers Are Liars: The Power of Telling Authentic Stories .)

Application: Get a direct marketing/interactive agency like BCD Pinpoint, Arc Worldwide, MRM by Harrison Communications, or Indio CRM and a PR firm on board your marketing team to help with word-of-mouse and viral marketing. Space is limited in this column to discuss the practical ins and outs of this.

What kind of WOM messages get spread more readily through online media?

Our research data say just about the same thing as with the other WOM media. First to be passed on more quickly than others is rumors, criticisms and disappointing experiences. Between a positive versus a negative experience, the tendency of consumers is to spread quickly the negative ahead of the positive.

If a consumer sees a positive rumor as stating either explicitly or implicitly something favorable to the consumer's self-image, the sequence of transmittal is reversed: Positive ahead of the negative. For example, when FPJ died and the rumor had it that he died of excessive drinking, the anti-alcoholism voters and local leaders quickly emailed the rumor around with the added end-note: "U see! What did I say about 2 much drnkng?"

What's the effect on the recipient of a received rumor or viral message?

According to our accumulating research data, if the transmitter is a friend, the perceived truth is magnified. For example, consider those who had a disappointing store or airline flight experience and who tell their friends about the experience. Those friends told us during a survey interview that they will definitely never go to such store or will avoid flying such airline.

But if the rumor comes from a mere acquaintance or just one among many who are in the recipient's email "contact list," credibility is held in suspense. If the receive message is known to the recipient as a "rumor," then the recipient puts it at low priority ranking for word-of-mouse sending.

These are all finer considerations (or "theories" really) that you must take into account in your decision to use WOM marketing.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

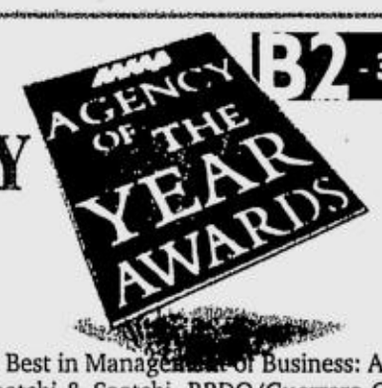
Despite threats, ad agencies gear up for AOY

THE ADVERTISING AGENCIES GEAR up for the Agency of the Year (AOY) Awards, amid challenges that face the industry. Agencies face the threat from non-agency competitors who sell their ideas and services to the advertisers at temptingly cheaper rates. But history has proven that ad agencies can rise to such a challenge. They have aces up their sleeves: Agencies have a deeper, long-term understanding of the clients' products, resulting in strong communication strategies, and their biggest weapon—strong creative ideas that create strong affinity with the consumers.

These strengths will be celebrated in the 2005 AOY Awards to be held on Sept. 15, at the activity center of Market! Market!, a sponsor of the event. The other major sponsors are Philippine Daily Inquirer, ABS-CBN and Mac Graphics Carranz International Corp.

Participating agencies include Best in Creative: Ace Saatchi & Saatchi , BBDO/ Guerrero Ortega, Campaigns & Grey, JimenezBasic, Leo Burnett , Lowe, McCann Erickson , Ogilvy & Mather, PC&V, Publicis, TBWA, and Y&R

Best in Market Performance: Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, BBDO/ Guerrero Ortega, Campaigns & Grey, JimenezBasic , J. Walter Thompson, Leo Burnett, Lowe, McCann Erickson, Ogilvy & Mather, PC&V, Publicis, TBWA, and Y&R



Best in Management of Business: Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, Campaigns & Grey, Campaigns Cebu, Dentsu Philippines, JimenezBasic, Lowe, McCann Erickson, and TBWA

The agency that has consistently excelled in every area of discipline wins the Agency of the Year Award.

Singapore retail invasion hits Manila

From page B2-1

Singapore, Beijing and Hong Kong, and were brought to Manila recently by husband and wife team Jerome Uy and Meredith Ngo.

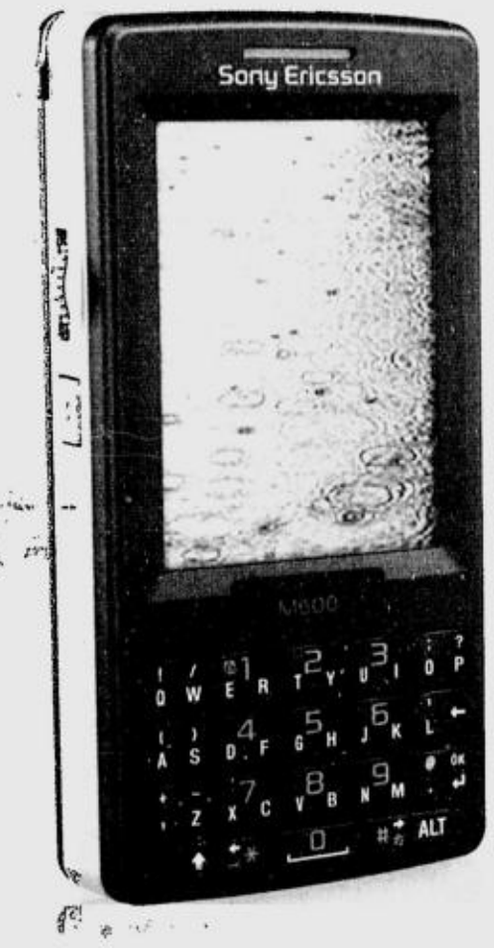
For quick bites and desserts, Crepes and Cream offers more than just desserts. The trendy eatery specializes in aromatic wafer and specially concocted sweet and savory crepes. It is becoming a dining hangout of families and friends.

Lolo Mao specializes in authentic Singaporean cuisine, and brings to Manila the street hawker experience with murals of Singapore shop fronts in its walls. Must tries include Hainanese Chicken and Rice, Baby Sotong, Ba Kut The, and Char Kway Teow.

The recent special screenings of the critically acclaimed film "I Not Stupid 2" at The Podium highlights how malls have evolved into venues for promoting cultural events of different countries.

The special screenings were in line with the 41st Singapore National Day celebrations, was a joint project of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore and The Podium with support from Smart Communications. Members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, corporate executives, and members of the Singapore community in Manila gathered together to celebrate and view the film by award winning Singaporean director Jack Teo, a comedy centered on the theme of increasingly difficult relationships between parents and children today.

Sony Ericsson



Platinum MasterCard.

5412

VALID THRU

Here's something to get you charging for the new M600i.

Purchase an M600i with your Platinum MasterCard, Titanium MasterCard or Gold MasterCard and get a free CLA 60 Car Charger kit. Hurry now and catch this sweet deal at your nearest participating Sony Ericsson dealer.

- This promotion is exclusive to Premium MasterCard (Gold MasterCard, Titanium MasterCard and/or Platinum MasterCard) cardholders only.
- Promotion period is from August 23 until October 3, 2006.
- Every purchase of Sony Ericsson M600i from the following participating outlets such as a) **Sony Ericsson Concept Shops** in SM North EDSA, Digital Exchange Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 1, SM Mall of Asia, Ayala Center Cebu City b)**Avant** in Greenbelt 4 c) **Abenson shops** in Glorietta 1, Eastwood Libis, Robinsons Galleria, Shangrila Plaza Mall d) **Automatic Centre shops** in Glorietta 4, Gateway Mall, Festival Supermall and North Edsa entitles the customer to a free CLA 60 Car Charger kit.
- The purchase must be an approved bank transaction to be valid for the promotion.
- If credit card transaction is successful, the receipt of the customer will be stamped with VALID FOR THE PROMOTION by the cashier.
- After redeeming the premium item, the Premium MasterCard cardholder receipt will be stamped with CLAIMED.
- Said receipts stamped with CLAIMED cannot be used again.
- Only one (1) premium item for every valid single straight purchase of a Sony Ericsson M600i Gold MasterCard, Titanium MasterCard and Platinum MasterCard.
- The premium item is not convertible to cash nor can it be exchanged for another item.
- Claiming period of premium item shall be until December 3, 2006, which is 60 days from end of promotion period.

For further info, please call (02) 635-1860 or text SE HELP to 2960. P 2.50 per text message. Per DTI Permit No. 2584, Series of 2006.

BUSINESS Friday

Lucena's secret 'longganisa' now sizzles nationwide

After newspaper feature, sales increase over 200 percent

LUCENA CITY—IT PAYS TO BE WRITten in the INQUIRER.

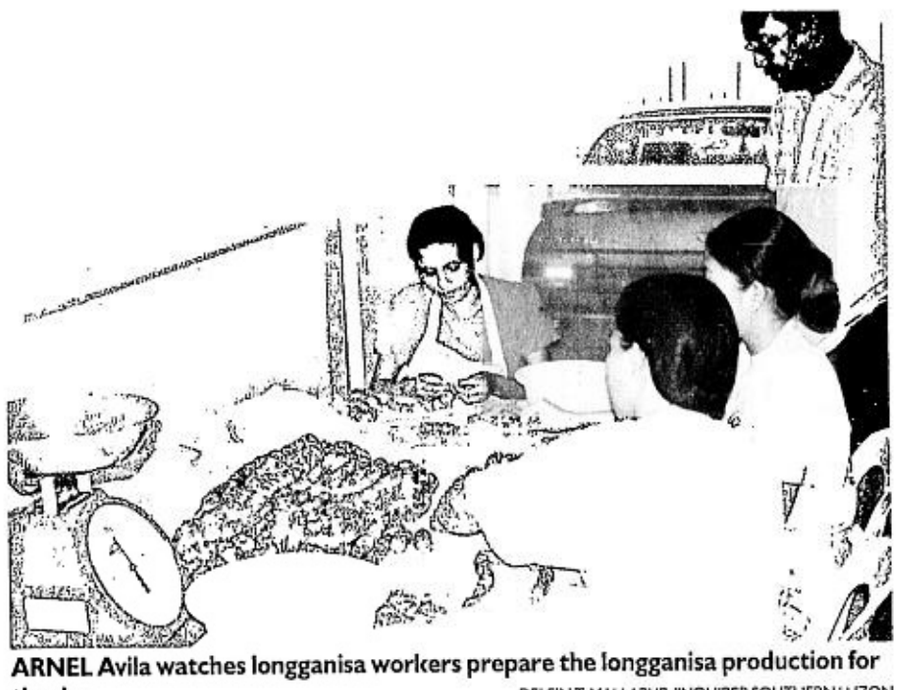
Lucena homemade "longganisa" maker, Lita Avila, 65, found the adage to be true when she was flooded with orders and business propositions after her local sausage business venture was reported in the INQUIRER's BusinessFriday section (Housewife's secret 'longganisa' sizzles in Lucena, Aug. 18).

"Our family couldn't believe it. The response was phenomenal," Lita tells this correspondent.

"This is the big surprise that my patron saint, St. Anne, gave me. I've been praying for her help in my business. She used the INQUIRER to grant me my wish," she adds.

Her daughter Tess showed five sheets of yellow pad paper, which she used in listing down the phone numbers and addresses of those who had inquired and placed orders by phone on the day that the newspaper hit the streets.

"The calls and text messages came from as far as Zamboanga, Davao, Cebu, Metro Manila, Ilocos, Pampanga—all over the country—from early morning till evening, all wanting to know where to buy our homemade longganisa. Some were presenting themselves as possible business partners as dealers," Tess says.



ARNEL Avila watches longganisa workers prepare the longganisa production for the day

DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Lita's 11-year-old granddaughter Louise Ann, who also manned the listed phone numbers, recalled how a group of religious devotees bound for Lucban called up and inquired about the direction on how to reach their pork sausage factory.

With the sudden huge orders to meet, the girl suddenly found herself in the sausage production line in-charge of putting the business label inside the styropor box covered with plastic sheet.

Lita, the ecstatic entrepreneur, also discloses that the personal driver of an executive of a multinational cigarette company traveled all the way from Batangas and knocked on their door on that Friday morning just to buy a couple of dozens of the reported longganisa.

Their first delivery of the sausage a few hours after the INQUIRER report came out was to former Sen. Tito Sotto, who happened to be in Lucena as one of the guests at the agri-fair exhibits of the provincial government.

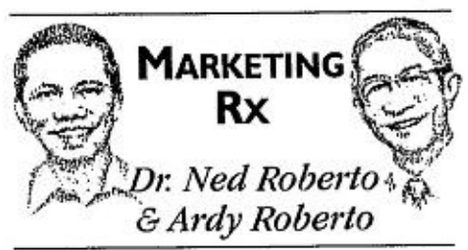
"Our regular dealer at the provincial capitol called at the phone and surprisingly asked how Senator Sotto was able to know our product because one of his staff placed an order to her for 10 dozens. I told her that maybe the senator just read the INQUIRER report, which we later found was what really happened," Lita says.

She reveals that they had already conducted several personal meetings with potential product distributors including a multimillionaire US-based Filipino in Antipolo City as possible business partner.

"We were told that on the day that the story came out, the couple was thinking of what line of business to open while they are in the country. It so happened that they were reading the INQUIRER. After reading the story they immediately dialed our number and asked for a meeting," Tess says.

LUCENA'S/ B2-3

Media component of Word-Of-Mouth



LET'S NOW MOVE ON TO THE MEDIA COMponent of WOM. So what WOM media works or multiplies a TV, radio or print ad? What are the different WOM media in the first place?

Nothing beats face to face. The best WOM media is when a person (especially an influencer) tells other people about your new product or promotion at lunch, at a party or any other social gathering. Our emerging research data (while still to be completed) already show that the face-to-face (F2F) media is still the key and major WOM media. The multiplication potential of F2F works like a multi-level marketing scheme where one consumer talks to two, then each of the two talks to his/her own two, and so on. It's just like the process discussed lengthily in Malcolm Gladwell's book, The Tipping Point. We discussed the different roles of Gladwell's spreaders-of-the-word, specifically the "Connectors/networkers," Mavens and Mavericks in creating WOM in our March 3, 2006 column.

Application: Get the influencers (Connectors, Mavens, Mavericks) to try your product. Send them free samples. If your product is a car, get them to test-drive it for a weekend. (Car marketers call this also the puppy-dog technique.) If there really is something good or unique, they will start talking about it. Better, they will ask for a good deal on the product. Make sure you give them one if and when they want to buy your product.

SMS as a trigger

After Face to Face media, the other WOM media are a proxy or surrogate of it. There is first the SMS or texting, sometimes referred to as the M2M (mobile-to-mobile) media or even P2P (phone-to-phone) media. The principle is the same as face to face media and it could be spread much more rapidly and exponentially. Just ask the telcos. It is rumored that the jokes and other chismis are spread by Globe and Smart themselves.

One practical way to use SMS is to start sending your customers updates on your latest promotions. But please give your customers "opt-out" options or better, ask them first if they would like to be included in your SMS update. (For example, I receive via text the Nurture Spas offer on a free room night in their Batangas spa, when I get a massage treatment. I have also received SMS messages from a friend from Pizza Hut who texted me this message:

"Hav u heard d news abt Pizza Hut?Theyr running out of their NEW Cheesy Volcano Pizza becz every1 is buying it. Its now being RATIONED. Betr get urs b4 they run out!" The truth is because they import from the US this special cheese (which is inserted into the crust) this has put a limit on their production. Demand continues to exceed their supply and they made this 'rationing' of Cheesy Volcano pizza's into a WOM message via text and radio.)

Application: Once you determine your unique value-added overt benefit, start talking and texting your friends and family about this. Woe to the marketer whose wife buys from his competitor simply because she didn't know that she could get a better product or deal from her husband!

SMS combined with billboards.

Nike has successfully combined SMS with billboards in creating WOM media. Last year, it put up a huge electronic billboard in Times Square in New York City.

The billboard images and ad copy invited viewers and shoppers in Times Square to call in or SMS their orders for a customized footwear appearing in the electronic billboard screen.

Word of 'mouse'.

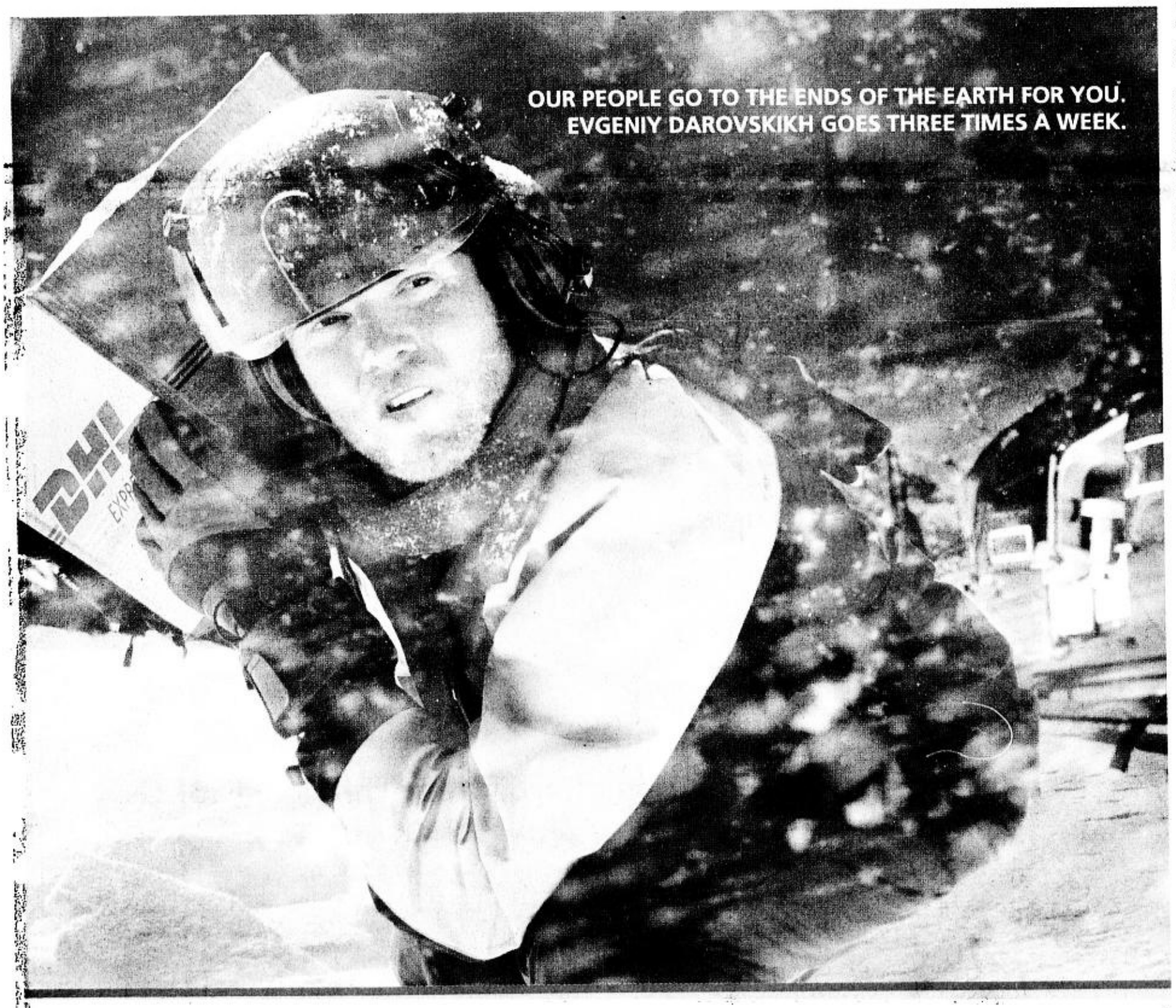
Then there's the online media made up of email, blogs and message boards, and popular websites like Friendster. Successful loyalty programs that operate their CRMs mostly online tell us of the amazing customer bonding and relationship sustaining capabilities of the online media.

This media has become so engaging to so many consumers that the acronym WOM has been translated to read today as "Word-Of-Mouse" media. As a marketing strategy, it's been termed as "viral marketing."

Movie producers and marketers are extensive users of "word-of-mouse" media. Movie magazines tell us that X-Men 3 and Superman Returns were both virally marketed successfully. In fact, the Superman Returns movie trailer is still in the top 100 most downloaded video podcasts in the Apple i-Tunes website.

To learn more about viral marketing, read Viral Marketing: Getting Your Audience to Do Your Marketing for You by Russell Goldsmith (2002 Financial Times Management); and

MEDIA/ B2-3



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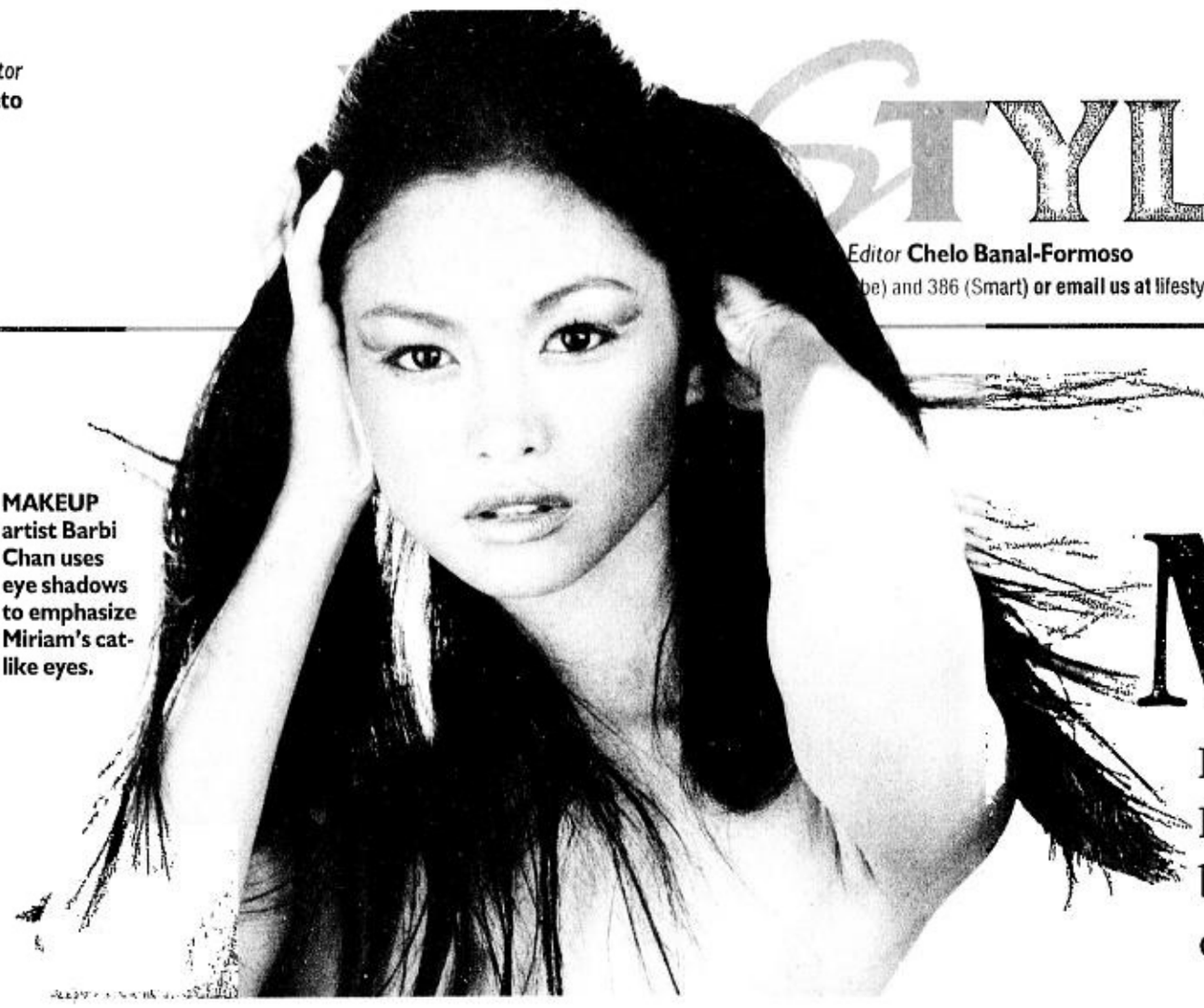
BEAUTY



MAKEUP artist Barbi Chan uses eye shadows to emphasize Miriam's cat-like eyes.

Mesmerizing Miriam

Beauty queen, TV host and real girl Miriam Quiambao shares with us the beauty lifestyle that has made her one of the country's fairest faces

MESMERIZING/ C2

'M Special

METROBANK 44

Imagine stepping into a store and you get an extra perk or a free item for your purchases. Or when you dine in a restaurant and you get a free drink or a dessert. Doesn't that just make you feel special?

With Metrobank credit card, that's exactly what you will feel every time you use your credit card. With over 500 partner establishments covering shopping retailers, bars and restaurants, beauty and wellness meccas, and holiday destinations, you just can't miss getting it.

To get your perk or freebie, look for the ubiquitous 'M Here! logo of Metrobank Credit Card. Its eye-catching striped pattern and bold red and blue shades makes it hard not to notice. It only means something good is in store for you whenever you use your Metrobank credit card in a partner establishment.

Whether it be celebrating a birthday at a restaurant, or treating yourself to a relaxing day at the spa, or engaging in some much needed retail therapy, be sure to ask about what treats are in store for you whenever you see the 'M Here! sign and get ready to receive perks, discounts and freebies whenever you use your Metrobank credit card.

With Metrobank credit card any day is a special day.

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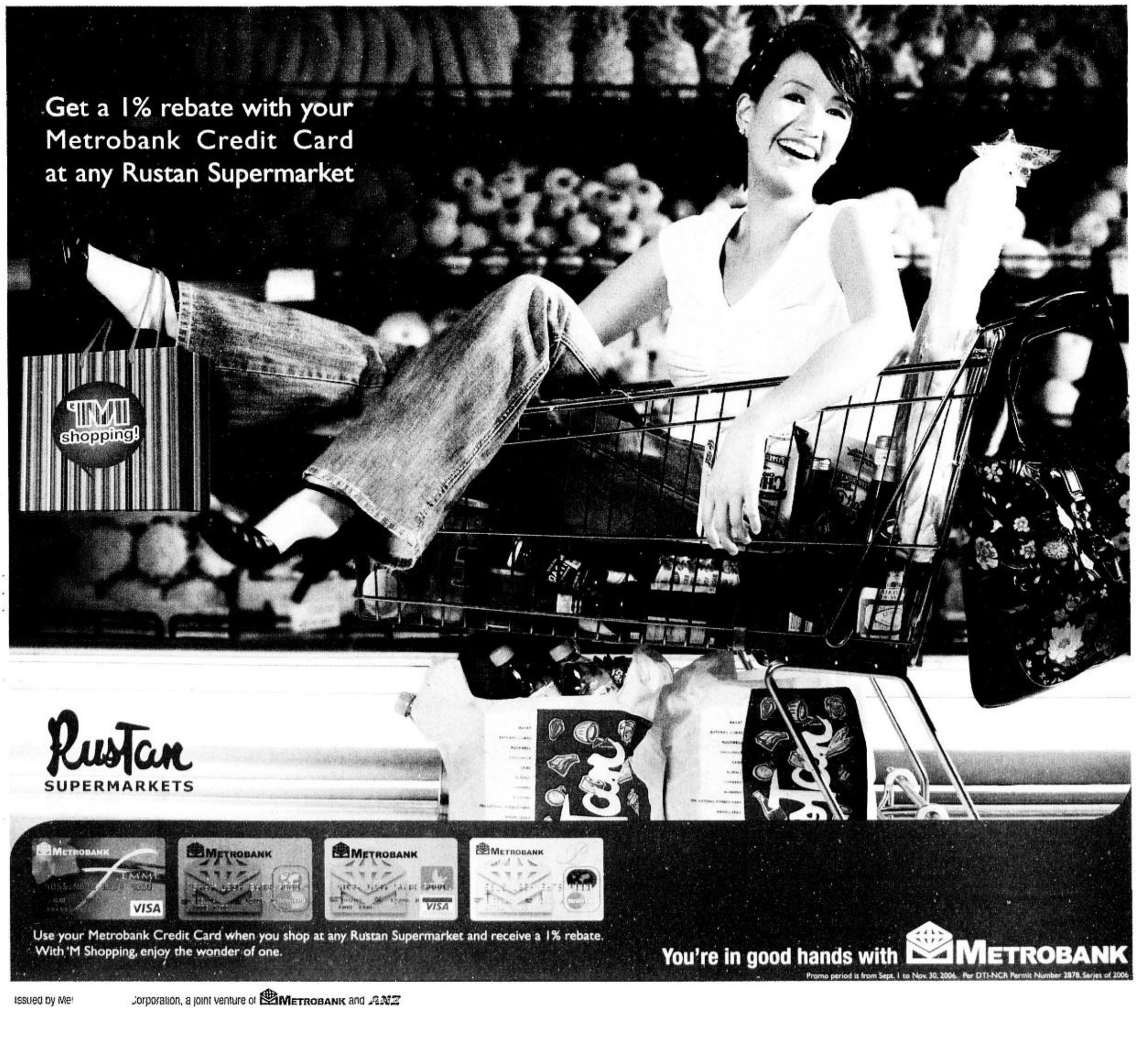


Issued by Me Corporation, a joint venture of METROBANK and ANZ

Mesmerizing Miriam

IT WAS MY FIRST TIME TO MEET A BEAUTY queen and, honestly speaking, as childish as it may sound, I was excited and nervous at the same time.

Miriam Quiambao is now my favorite beauty queen. Not that I even know a lot about her. But after meeting Miriam, I realized she is like every other girl who, when she slips, gets back on her feet pronto. The big difference is, she has done this with a lot of grace in many areas of her life.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

Beauty queen, TV host, and real girl Miriam shares with us her beauty lifestyle.

What's in your daily "kikay" kit?

I have a small pencil case that I carry everyday, and it fits all my beauty essentials for the day: Shimmer lip & cheek tint, Shu Uemura concealer, Laura Mercier lip gloss and a curlash. If I need to go somewhere at night, I have in there a retractable eyeliner in dark brown and in black as well as a couple of my favorite shades of lipstick: One matte brownish red and one pink brown shade with a light sheen.

What's your daily beauty ritual?

I make sure to wash my face with a non-soap facial wash. If I have makeup on, I remove it with a makeup removing oil. I then follow it with an exfoliant, a toner and then Olay Total Effects. My daily makeup is usually just lip and cheek tint and lip gloss.

During this process, I have very powerful affirmations that I repeat to myself: "I am worthy of the best! I deserve the best and I accept the best now. I am mentally and emotionally equipped to enjoy a prosperous and loving life. I deserve all good. I claim my good."

What beauty products can't you live without?

I definitely can't live without my Olay Total Effects. It has made my life so much more convenient by answering all my anti-aging needs, as well as replacing all my other facial products: Firming fluid, vitamins/minerals, eye cream, moisturizer and sunblock.

What is in your travel "kikay" kit?

I have about four *kikay* kits that I always bring with me on trips: A bath pouch, a facial pouch and two makeup pouches. My black YSL pouch contains all my bath travel essentials. I normally put my favorite products in small containers: Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body crème/lotion. I even have travel-size deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrush, mouthwash and perfume. In addition, I make sure to bring my favorite shade of nail polish and nail polish remover in a small container in case I need a pedicure. I have a small sewing kit that has retractable scissors in case I need to repair a hem. I also like to bring Origins Sensory Therapy Peace of Mind in case I suffer from jetlag. I also have L'Occitane cream gel for tired legs in case I need a quick self-massage after long walks. I bring along a box of Bioron Carekit which contains homeopathic medicines for the following symptoms: Insect bites, allergies, bruises, body pains and indigestion. I hardly ever use chemical medicines because I prefer naturopathy and homeopathy in treating illnesses. For my facial pouch, I have my exfoliant, toner, makeup remover, eye makeup remover in travel size bottles. I even found a travel container for cotton buds. I like Lancome Hyra Zen yeux for anti-fatigue and anti-puffiness of the eyes. In my makeup kit, I have a small folding case for travel-size brushes and have separated my eye shadow palettes into two: Neutral and colored. The other products are fluid foundation, cream concealer, a lipstick palette, a bronzer, lip and check shimmer.

Favorite scent?

Origins Ginger Essence for everyday use, because it smells fresh. At night, I like to use Gucci Eau de Parfum II.

For very special occasions like dates or weddings, I use Chanel No. 5. I also have the Chanel No. 5 hair mist. It smells absolutely divine, especially when my hair moves.

What's the best beauty advice you've received?

Wash your face of makeup before going to bed. Put on sunblock and moisturize, moisturize, moisturize. Nurture and care for your spirit. Real beauty comes from within.

What's your beauty advice for girls out there?

Take care of your skin, body and health while you are young. Eat healthy by taking three servings of vegetables and two servings of fruits a day, drink lots of water and do some amount of exercise. Avoid meat at all costs. If you must eat meat, do so only very rarely and take it with vegetables and not with carbohydrates (rice, bread). This helps for better digestion and more energy after a meal. If you have to eat meat, do your best to limit it to fish and seafood twice or thrice a week. Take vitamins or skin supplements and antioxidants if you need them. I like to take chlorella, which is the precursor of the blue green algae spirulina. It is very potent and high in energy. It contains all your nutrient needs, and more!

Protect and nurture your relationship with God. Take frequent nature trips or connect with nature and life more often, such as by playing with children or a loving pet. You'll be amazed at how young and energized you will feel. Stay happy, carefree and always have a positive approach in life. Smile often! Notice that the world smiles around you as well.

Always see the good in yourself as well as in others. Take time to appreciate the little things in life. Express your appreciation to those around you. You will find that as you thank them and express to others what it is you like about them, the more you will have sincere friends and fulfilling relationships. Nurture you body as well as your mind and spirit. Read books, share with your family/friends that which you have learned. Find ways to contribute to your family, friends, the environment and the community. There is nothing more attractive than someone with whom you can discuss and share ideas with, as well as one who takes the time to care for those in need.

What makes a Filipina beautiful?

What I appreciate about us Filipinas is our unshakeable faith in and devotion to God, as well as our tan/*kayumanggi* color. I always feel like a goddess every time I go abroad because people always express their appreciation for my honey-colored skin.

What would you change in you?

I wouldn't want to change anything because I believe that God has made us all perfect. Therefore, I can only appreciate and accept myself the way I am, warts and all. However, there are things about my behavior that I would like to improve, and my motivation is to further allow Christ to mold my personality into one that is pleasing to Him.

Would you ever go under the knife?

I would allow myself to go under the knife for health reasons. I hope I will not have to undergo cosmetic surgery only for the sake of vanity. This is why I do my best to stay young-looking and healthy by natural means.

Who do you find beautiful?

There are many women I find physically beautiful, but there are those I admire most because of who they are rather than what they look like. They include, but are not limited to, Oprah, Angelina Jolie, Princess Diana, Mother Theresa and Audrey Hepburn. I admire the fact that have allowed themselves to be instruments of love, compassion, and nurturing to those in need. It is their loving spirit that I find most beautiful.

Are you scared of aging?

I am not scared of aging. In fact, I look forward to it. I believe that every age has its beauty and purpose in a woman's life. Every spot or wrinkle is an indication of her wisdom and the beautiful experiences she has gone through, which have transformed her to the woman she is today.

Of course in terms of physical beauty, I do my best to stay healthy and youthful by living a healthy lifestyle and using my favorite beauty products. But this is because I care for myself and for my body. It is a gift from God and I am only being a good steward of it. If I don't care for my health, how will I be able to have the energy and the endurance to do the good work I would like to do?

What's your cheapest beauty buy?

A smile. It's free! It terms of beauty products, toothpaste at P20. It keeps your smile looking clean and smelling fresh!

What's the most expensive?

Probably a professional set of makeup brushes that I bought for P27,000 a few years ago. I hardly ever use it now, because I've realized I can make do with my travel set that cost only a fraction of that price.

Any tips on makeup or when being in front of the camera?

Make sure to use the foundation that is closest to your natural skin color. This avoids having a ghost-like appearance in pictures. It also works to use shimmering bronzers or makeup on your face and body, to give you that youthful or bronze glow under the lights.

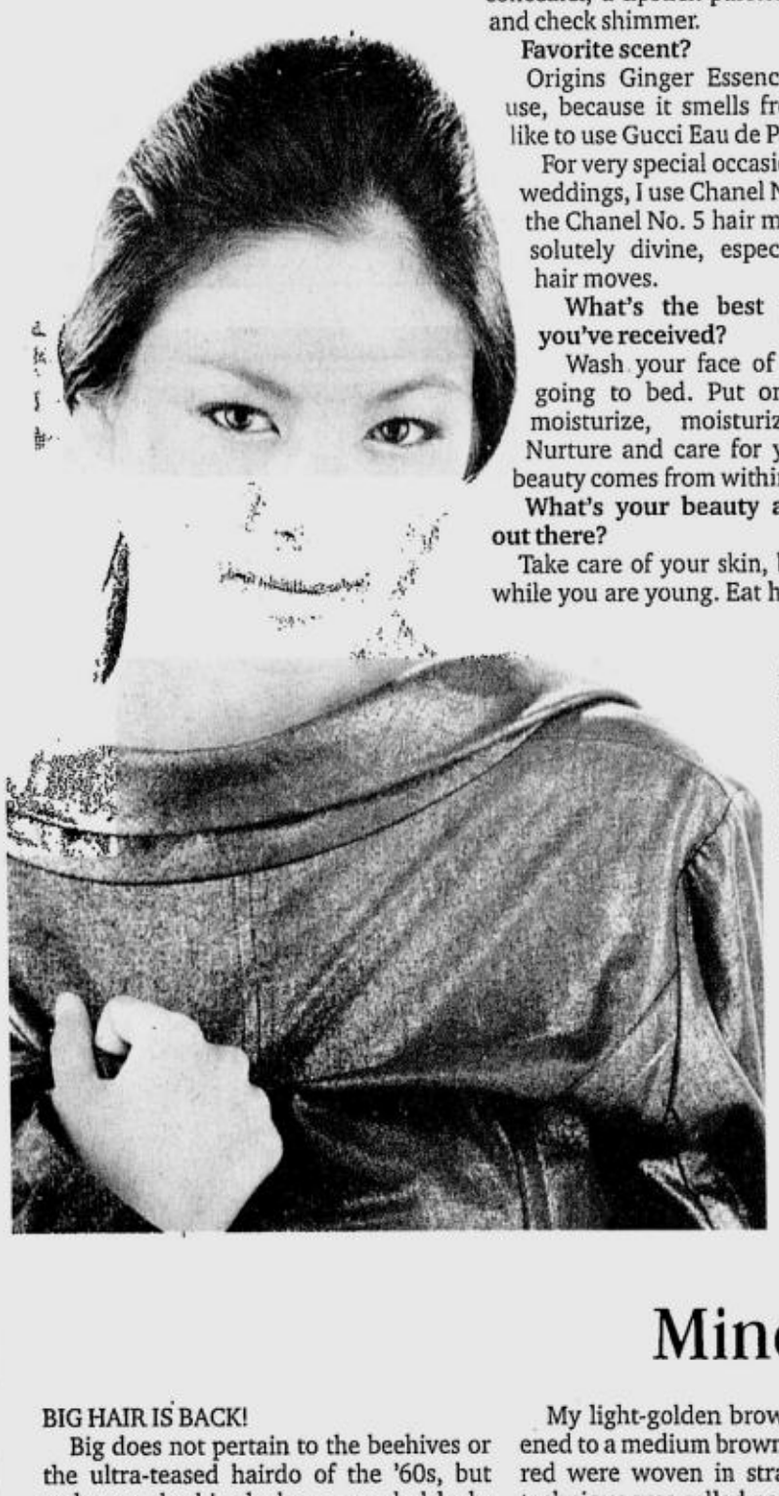
How do you take care of your hair?

I wash it daily with my favorite shampoo and conditioner. I also do my best to visit the salon for protein treatments and a trim every other month.

What would you sacrifice for beauty?

I wouldn't mind sacrificing the money if I really like a beauty product that works for me. But in terms of inner beauty, suffering is an option. It is not necessary. If I must sacrifice anything, it would be because I am going through the ups and downs, the ebb and flow of life in order to beautify my per-

BLACK BEAUTY. Kohl liner is all it takes to create a modern, intense look.



A TOUCH of white eye shadow on the lids and under the eyes gives Miriam a natural glow.

CHANEL bronzing powder

OLAY Total Effects

LANCOME eye shadow

Mineral makeup and sex-symbol hair

BIG HAIR IS BACK!

Big does not pertain to the beehives or the ultra-teased hairdo of the '60s, but rather to the big, lush, sex-symbol locks made famous by Claudia Schiffer and Cindy Crawford during the late '80s, right before the waif invasion and super-straight hair, which later graduated to the stick straight and saran-wrap, shiny rebonded hair made famous by Jennifer Aniston.

KERASTASE Volumactive shampoo

Louis Philippe Kee of Salon de Ken gave me a call because he was excited about this new look he had in mind for me. I had been due for a color touch-up as my hair was too golden for the upcoming fall-winter trend. The rule in hair color is lighter for spring-summer and deeper for fall-winter.

When I got there he asked if I was willing to go short and full. I said no way! I am game for every trend but I will not be chopping my hair anywhere near the shoulder anytime soon.

But he told me big hair was back, and it was the kind we associated with the original supermodels—Cindy, Claudia, Estelle and Christy, etc.

My light-golden brown hair was darkened to a medium brown and highlights of red were woven in strategic spots. This technique was called paneling, and I ended up with rich brownish red hair the color of mahogany and wine.

After I was reassured that '80s hair in this case did not mean hard-to-fix flyaway, I agreed to the haircut. Louis layered my fine hair in such a way that it would have natural fullness even without styling products as he worked with my natural wave.

The end result: Rich red hair that is wash-and-wear but with natural fullness. I maintain the look with Kerastase Volumactive shampoo and Vitaciment leave-on conditioner.

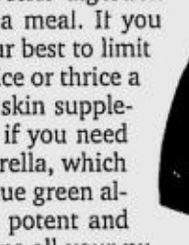
My hairstyle was Kim Basinger circa early '90s ("The Marrying Ma"), but red instead of blonde. I went home feeling really slinky. For appointments, call Salon de Ken at 8928352.

Anti-aging

Since I am in my mid-30s, my concerns are weight loss and anti-aging. For me to sit up and notice makeup, there has to be something special about it.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas



Youngblood Mineral Cosmetics founder Pauline Youngblood was a paramedical aesthetician for eight years to dermatologists and plastic surgeons and felt for the patients who were not allowed to use makeup after corrective surgical procedures to conceal scars, stitches or even redness due to their very sensitive and problematic skin.

So she developed a formulation of micronized minerals and natural pigments to create a concealing powder without harmful petroleum dyes for use on patients with special cosmetic needs.

The Youngblood line is recommended by doctors, aestheticians, spas and medi spas all over the USA because they are also water-resistant—yes, it's sweat-resistant—so users look fresh. Non-comedogenic, it has SPF properties.

Youngblood Natural Mineral Foundation. A best seller, it's in loose powder form; it's a foundation, concealer and powder in one. Applied with a special sponge, it gives medium to full coverage but appears very sheer on the skin.

Tips: a) Just one tap on the bottom onto the lid is all you need to cover whole face. b) NMF looks darker in the container compared to the skin, so try the tester to make sure you don't pick too light a shade.

If you have dry skin, opt for the Liquid Mineral Foundation, which contains vitamins and antioxidants that are beneficial to the skin to sooth, enrich and hydrate.

Youngblood Mineral Rice Setting Powder (MRSP). It's 100 percent talc-free and has a long-lasting smooth matte finish. Tip: If you have oily skin, apply the rice powder before the NMF for maximum oil control.

Youngblood Ultimate Concealer. It can go from sheer to heavy depending on your desired coverage. In the demo, the makeup artist covered up a tattoo with this, then put MRSP and NMF on top for lasting coverage.

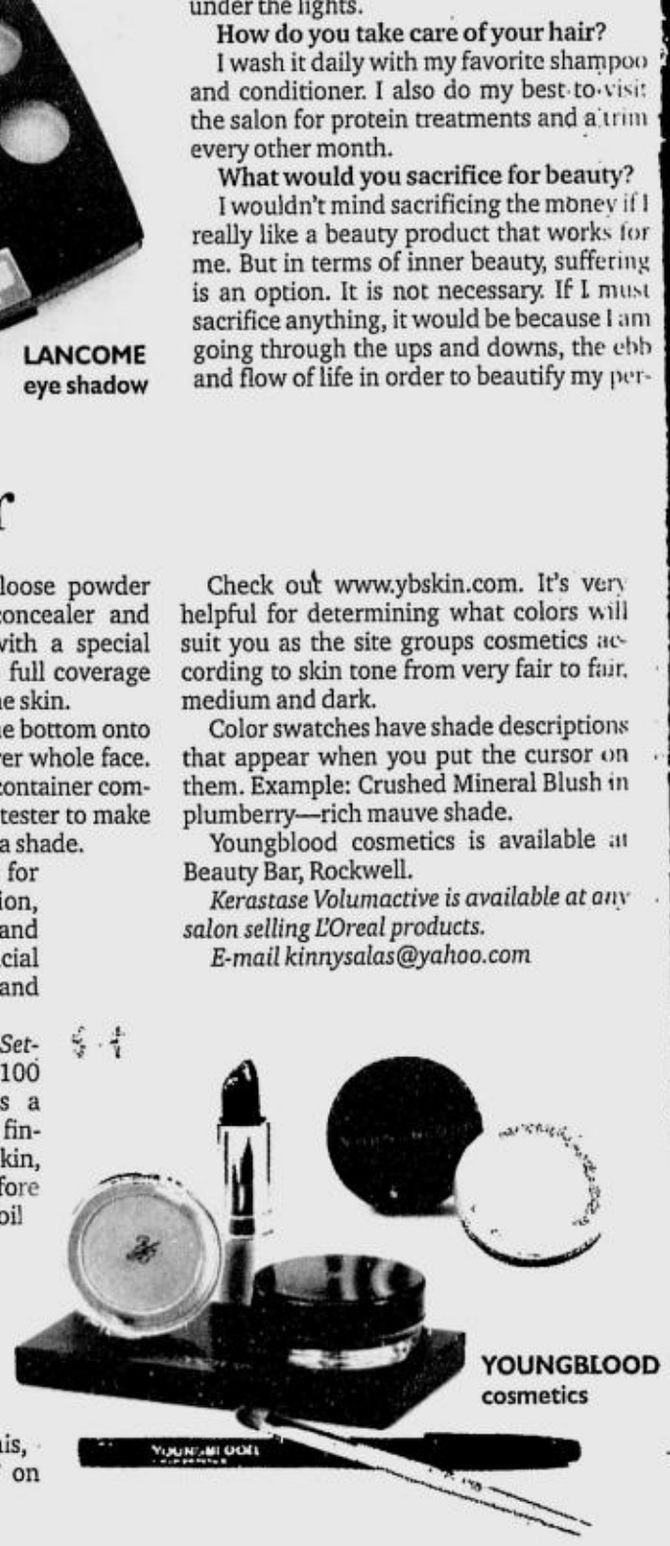
Check out www.ybskin.com. It's very helpful for determining what colors will suit you as the site groups cosmetics according to skin tone from very fair to fair, medium and dark.

Color swatches have shade descriptions that appear when you put the cursor on them. Example: Crushed Mineral Blush in plumberry—rich mauve shade.

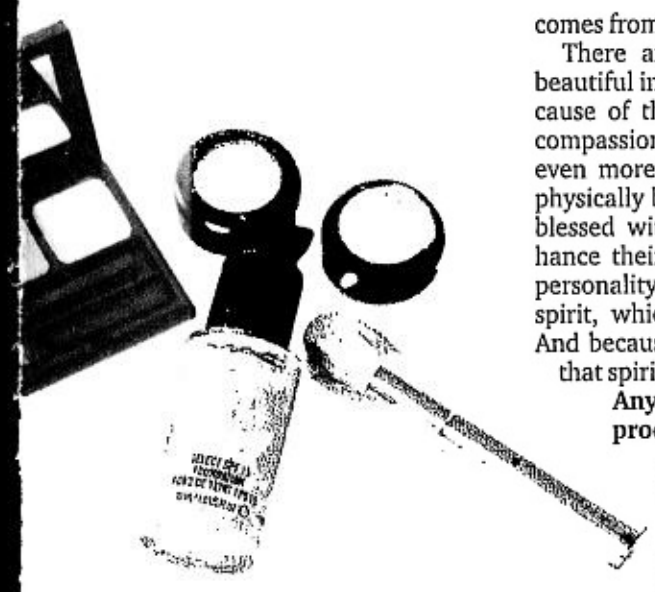
Youngblood cosmetics is available at Beauty Bar, Rockwell.

Kerastase Volumactive is available at any salon selling L'Oreal products.

E-mail kinnysalas@yahoo.com



YOUNGBLOOD cosmetics



sonality and transform it to become closer to my spirit.

How important is beauty to you?

I am blessed and I appreciate that I have good genes from my parents. However, nurturing my spirit through prayer and good works as well as caring for my body by living a healthy lifestyle is most important to me, because I believe that beauty comes from within.

There are people who may not look beautiful in the conventional sense, but because of their endearing personality and compassionate spirit, they may appear even more beautiful than those who are physically beautiful. Those who have been blessed with good genes can further enhance their beauty by transforming their personality and making it closer to their spirit, which is pure and ever beautiful. And because each and everyone of us has that spirit, to me, everyone is beautiful.

Any tips on shopping for beauty products?

Ask for samples if you can before you invest in the whole bottle. Try makeup on the inside of your wrists to test the color, because this is closest to the color and texture of your facial skin.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
BECKY OF PARADIGM
MAKEUP
BARBI CHAN OF MAYBELLINE
HAIR BY
FELICITY SON
STYLED BY
RIA FRANCISCO-PRIETO
CLOTHES BY
MIX GREENBELT

Orchid and garden show Sept. 1-11

GOINGS ON

THE PHILIPPINE ORCHID SOCIETY IS holding its 60th Mid-year Orchid and Garden Show Sept. 1-11 at the Lagoon Island, Orchidarium Park, Quezon City Hall Complex, Elliptical Road corner East Avenue, Diliman, QC. This year's theme is "Celebrating 60 years in Orchid Growing." The show formally opened yesterday with Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes as guest. Lectures will be conducted at 2 p.m. every day. Call 09178485468 or 9265061.

WEEKEND SALE. Robinsons Place Manila holds "Family Weekend Sale," Sept. 15-17. Discounts of up to 50 percent from participating stores like G-Box, Kenny Rogers and Robinsons World are offered. Special events will also be held during the three-day sale including *ati-atihan* parade, kiddie workshops, taekwondo and ballet. Call 6836137, 6836100 local 780 or 782.

SHOPPING EXHIBIT. The Manila Designer's Shopping exhibit will be held Sept. 2-3 at the main ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel, Esperanza St., corner Makati Avenue, Makati. The exhibit will feature exclusive items by Filipino artists, designers and entrepreneurs. It will feature locally-made accessories, clothes, crafts and specialty food products. Call 09282692935.

WORKSHOP. A flower arrangement seminar-workshop will be conducted by Eunice Teo Khee Choo 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sept. 19, at the Legend Villas, Pioneer corner Madison and Sheridan streets, Mandaluyong City. The next day, the 2nd Amateur Floral Arrangement Competition, will be held at the Dangwa Flower Market, Sampaloc, Manila.
Among the topics covered in the seminar are the latest designs/trends; arrangements for weddings, funeral and other events; and cost-cutting techniques. Choo AIFD is currently the chief instructor and designer of Antrol Flower Designing Center in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Call 2420964 or 7462496/6314429.

HOMECOMING. The St.Joseph Academy (SJA)-La Consolacion College (LCC) Alumni Association is searching for outstanding alumni to highlight the 56th grand alumni homecoming on Nov. 25 at the LCC Quadrangle. Nomination forms for the categories of Arts, Business, Banking and Finance, Community Service, Construction and Engineering, Education, Entertainment, Law, Medicine, Public Admin/Gov't Service and Religion may be obtained and submitted to La Consolacion College Caloocan City. Call 2879703, 3649248 or 0917-8270021.

MALL OPENING. Robinsons Department Store (RDS) has opened branches in Gapan City, Nueva Ecija, and the second level of Limketkai Mall, Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro City.
RDS' Gapan branch's ribbon-cutting was attended by RDS general manager Graham Coates, Elizabeth Gokongwei, Springtime Creations Corporation's general manager Julian Tecson, GMA Kapuso artists and Starstruck idols Rainier Castillo and Jackie Rice, Mario d'Boro marketing operations manager Cris Garcia, Sabella general manager Ramon Sabella, and Abenson Group of Companies general manager Winston Lim.

PROMO. Get your dream phone now through Sun Cellular's Zero Percent Interest Promo. Sun Cellular offers a wide selection of models at zero percent interest when you subscribe to any of its postpaid plans (Plan 350, 600, 1000, 2000, and 3500). You can get the latest handset in 3-, 6- or 12-monthly installments. Participating credit card companies are Citibank, Equitable-PCI, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Security Bank, Diners and American Express. Under Plan 600, for instance, you can have a Nokia 6101 for as low as P293.94 in 12 easy monthly installments. The slim and attractive Motorola L6 is available for only P321.50 monthly at Plan 350. Visit any of The Sun Shop outlets nationwide or call the hotline 3958000.

COMPETITION. Starmall Edsa holds "Rappenings at the Mall," a rap competition open to all rap groups composed of three to five members, 16 years old and above. Registration forms are available at the Starmall Customer Service Booth. Call 7181886.

PRE-XMAS EXHIBIT. A pre-Christmas trade fair dubbed "The 13th Philippine Toys, Gifts, Housewares and Christmas Decor Fair," will be held Oct. 6-30 at the Greenhills Shopping Complex.

CONTEST. Search is on for The Brick Road's Mr. and Ms Sexy Body 2007. Open to sexy models aged 18 to 25, at least high school graduate, with good looks, proportioned body and clear skin. Get entry form at Ad and Promo Department of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall on Sept. 15 to Nov. 3, attach photocopy of birth certificate, a 2R close-up and 3R full body photo. Screening dates Oct. 13 to Nov. 4. Elimination round starts Oct. 20. Search will be launched Oct. 1, 4 p.m., at the mall's Entertainment Center with a fashion show directed by Richard Gavin. Call 6815401 local 109.

FORUM. The Philippine Librarians Association (PLAI) will hold a forum on "The interconnectivity of reading and civic involvement book talk; Twelve little things every Filipino can do to help our country" by Atty. Alexander L. Lacson on Sept. 1, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the World Trade Center Function Room A. Call Shirley at 5249740.

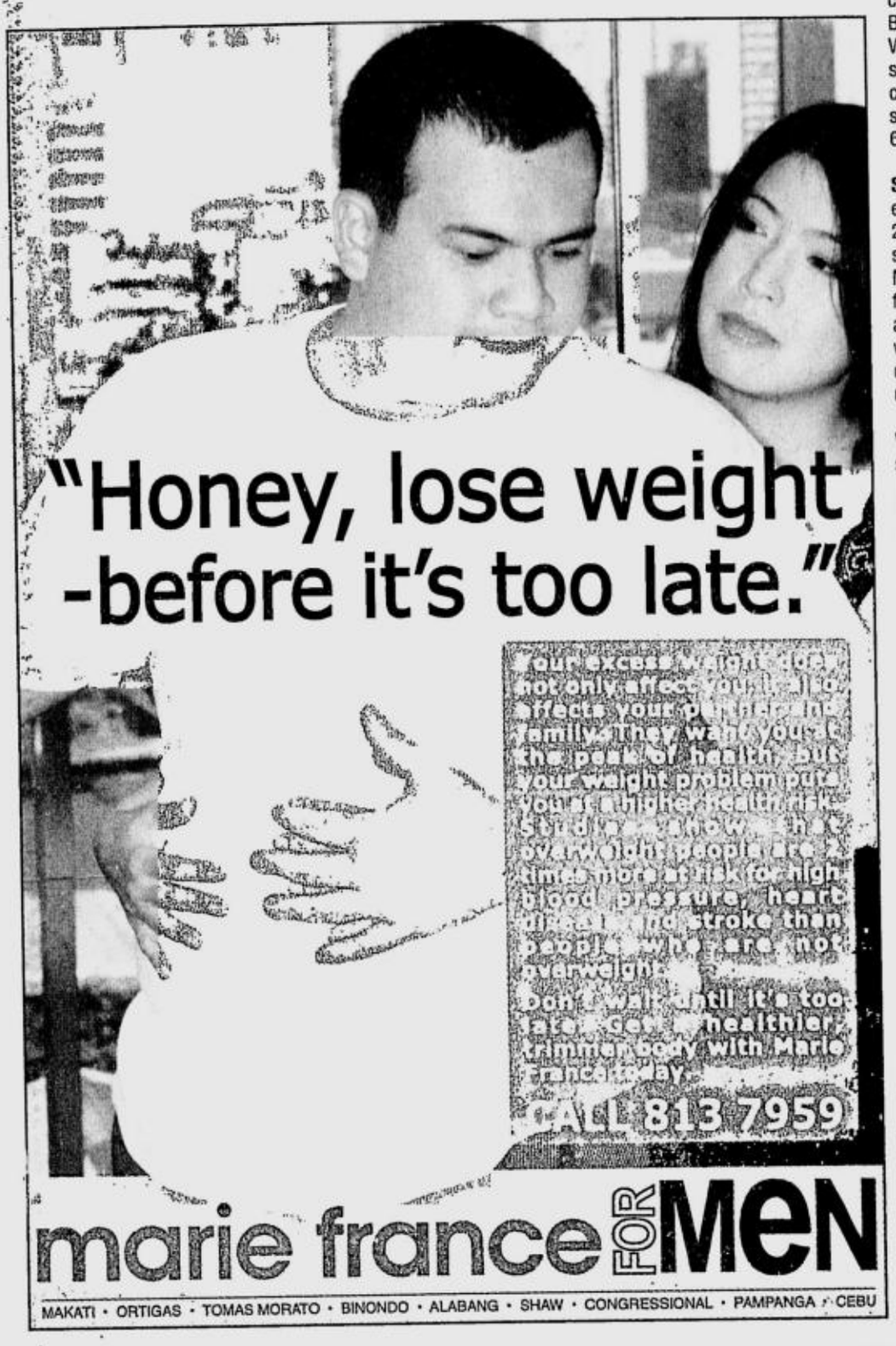
SINGING CONTEST. Robinsons Malls and Glox are hosting until Sept. 14 a videoke singing contest at Nova Stop, Robinsons Place Novaliches. Weekly elimination rounds will be held Sept. 2, 9 and 16, 1 p.m. Finals will be on Sept. 23, 4 p.m., at Nova Stop. Call 6836100, local 780 or 782; 6836137.

TRADE FAIR. The Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers presents the 13th National Arts and Furniture Antique show, Sept. 8 to Oct. 3, at Greenhills Shopping Complex. The fair will feature Christmas décor, antique and modern furniture, arts and crafts, novelty items, fashion accessories, among others. Call 8203862, 8266732.

WORKSHOP. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. is holding a series of photography workshops for professionals and amateurs. The three-day seminar, Let's Talk Business, will be held Sept. 20-22. Call 5247576 or 5280371.

PROGRAM. "A Tribute to Teachers" of the nonprofit Bato Balani Foundation Inc. will be held Sept. 9, 1:30-5:30 p.m., at the Araneta Coliseum, QC. Guest speakers are Dr. Denis Waitley, founding director of the National Council of Self-Esteem of the United States; Francis Kong of Business Matters Values Foundation, and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Registration is ongoing. Log on to www.diwa.ph.

BRIDAL FAIR. The bridal fair "Wedding Basics 2006" will be held Oct. 29, at Le Pavilion, Metropolitan Avenue, Pasay City. The event is organized by Grooms Bestman Events' Management, Kasal.com, Sunlife Financial, Boracay Tropics, Celestial Rings, and Suriya Spa. Wedding Basics will showcase a wide selection of goods and services from top suppliers. It will also introduce the latest trends and provide information and tips to help people plan their weddings. Call 5645887, 5590057; 0916-4658011, and 0921-3432665.



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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

For feedback, e-mail us at life...ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

METROBANK 44

Federal Land Inc.: Giving more Filipino families quality choices for a place to call home

In 1972, amidst the economic and political crisis, one visionary made a bold move into real estate and established Federal Land Inc. (then known as Federal Homes), fulfilling his dream to build communities that would uplift the people's quality of life.

Federal Land was meant to target the Filipino-Chinese community hankering for modem office and residential projects in Binondo and the rest of downtown Manila.

With land a scarce commodity in the country's oldest central business district, Federal Land focused on erecting high-rise, quality towers that offered modern amenities and design to their place of work and dwelling.

Federal Land banked on the same trust and confidence of customers that propelled Metrobank as the largest financial services in the country.

Its projects are completed on the day of its commitment, and its units are built to better-than-industry-standard specification. This no non-sense approach to real estate has endeared Federal Land not only to the Filipino-Chinese community but also to the growing population of middle to upper-class Filipinos.

Federal Land is one of the biggest mixed-used urban developer in the capital city and nearby urban centers with nearly 30 projects in three decades.

From the Chinese hub of Binondo where they put up Tytana Plaza, Escolta Twin Towers, etc, they have already positioned in Pasay City (with Bayview International Towers), Makati (with Oriental Gardens Makati) and Quezon City (with Valencia Hills).

From the sedate Tytana Plaza in Binondo (it was Manila's tallest and largest building in 1979) to the gleaming GT Tower in Makati (rated as one of the world's most beautiful skyscrapers), Federal Land has made its mark as one of the most reliable and visionary property builders in the country's bustling skyline.

As the progressive developer that it is, Federal Land again expanded its horizons by venturing from vertical to horizontal development and began converting the few sprawling real estate pieces in Metro Manila into master planned communities: the 40-hectare Metropolitan Park across and Bay Garden in scenic Manila Bay, and the 17-hectare Marquinton Residences in the heart of the lush Marikina valley.

Federal Land wanted its projects to be seen not merely as a place for shelter or to park their retirement funds, but primarily as a place where families and individuals actually to live in and call their home because of the wide recreational open spaces, full-sized amenities, and the Blue Wave strip mall, the company's entry into niche retailing, that are basics in modern urban living.

Now after thirty-four years, the company is just as committed to meeting the growing demand for quality, affordable and nurturing environment for modern Filipino families by building yet another roster of uniquely-designed residential high-rises in key locations throughout Metro Manila, Quezon City, Marikina, Paranaque City, among others. Thus, remains true to its promise of providing not only quality-built homes but on-time delivery for all its projects making it one of the country's most reputable, sought-after urban developer.

ADVT.

Makati's fast-paced, ruthless lifestyle can be dull drudgery for any mover and shaker. A working day can leave you stripped of your intensity and passion for living, resigning you to a life of tedium without the energy to reap your successes.

At Mactan Tower, coming home is as warm as it is rewarding. Bask in the seaside sunshine, or energize yourself with a stimulating walk under the sunset. Or live it up at the exciting establishments around the area, such as the Mall of Asia, Blue Wave and Malate Circle. Although the landscape may seem like a world apart, Mactan Tower is a mere half an hour's drive from the hustle and bustle of your Makati office.

Stunning and spectacular living is just within your reach at Mactan Tower. A brighter future is in your hands. Tap into the power of Bayside living and check out our available units now. **Call 551 0888** to see what's waiting for you by the bay.

For announcement purposes only

MACTÁN TOWER at BAY GARDEN

FEDERALAND

Rajo Laurel, Patrice Ramos-Diaz and Rhett Eala celebrate Coke Light's guiltless-indulgence formula with pristine collections

All white, all good

Text and photos by Ivan Villarica
Contributor

HAVING IT ALL IS A TRICKY proposition. Though it does sound infinitely cool to get something you desire without the pesky costs, the concept itself seems a bit redundant—or possibly immoral. The challenge, then, is how to find something amazing that doesn't get consumed by its own greatness, something good that doesn't spoil.

Enter Coke Light, armed with a guiltless-indulgence formula for its brand campaign to celebrate, but a tried-and-tested winning formula for guilt-free indulgence.

To drum up the notable relaunch, a dinner party catered by Florabel's Hall in impeccable fashion (how, we recently held our Rock Well item).

The ramp-cum-dining table covered all bases. No doubt, it served the dazzling white collection of three local design luminaries: Rajo Laurel, Patrice Ramos-Diaz and Rhett Eala.

Each embellished all white, all the time, with gold accents reminiscent of 1930s glamour. Laurel opted to keep his designs predictable and feminine by incorporating pleated bodices and flaring hemlines, while Ramos-Diaz played with volume by creating [illegible] with cocoon coats and dresses. Eala, on the other hand, showcased his signature [illegible] by publicist-about-town Kerwin Pascual.

Another enlightening aspect of the night: Caught Full Access, No Rules, an exhibit of celebrity photos by Diether Ocampo that [illegible] Aside from its unique photo gallery, Ocampo [illegible] for its charitable [illegible] fired throughout

KRIS AQ

NO ONE LIK

SHOOTING T
KIDS

Donations to the K1D Relief and Social Services Foundation [illegible] efforts [illegible] fired throughout

CENTERPIECE. Models on the zigzag ramp that was an extension of the dinner table

MIGHTY APHRODITE. Top model Nicolette Bello and Miss [illegible] Ellen Adarna at Greenbelt [illegible]

RONALD
Enrico dress with laser-cut (to order, 0920-9286238; Anthology, R2 Power Plant Mall); Celine shoes, P999

TAN GAN
bubble knit dress, P2,999.75 and knit sash, P879.75; Salabianca necklace, P399; Celine shoes, P999

PROTACIO
Empaces dress (to order, 0916-2524619); Tan Gan necklace, P379.75; Mint earrings, P500; CMG gold bag, P2,499; Salabianca underskirt, P2,999

Bubble wrap

PHOTOGRAPHY
VICTOR CONSUNJI
STYLING MILLET ARZAGA
MAKEUP CLAIRE SEELIN-DIOKNO
FOR SHU UEMURA USING
THE LIMITED-EDITION FILIGREE
COLLECTION
HAIR RICK DIOKNO FOR KIEHL'S
STYLIST SERIES
MODEL MELISSA FRYE

By Cheche V. Moral

ONE OF FALL'S KEY SILhouettes, the cocoon, also known as the bubble or the egg shape, suggests a less restrictive manner of dressing for the season.

While the shape is more structured and sculptural than the flowy drapings we've seen in the past seasons, the return of the cocoon is, in fact, a throwback to the modernist era, when thinkers and artists of the early 20th century cast away traditions and embraced a more liberalized view of the emerging industrialized modern world.

It was at this time that cocoon-shaped coats first appeared, marking an end to constricted Victorian silhouettes.

Over the years, the bubble would take many forms, and not just coats but also dresses, skirts and tops, the most famous of which were Cristobal Balenciaga's versions in the 1950s.

Nicholas Ghesquiere, who's now at the creative helm of the house of Balenciaga, resurrects the silhouette of the master in his Fall collection. A number of other designers also adapt the shape as a detail on sleeves or on hems of gowns.

This trend proposes a practical mood in this season of parties and merrymaking: Dress shapes that would allow the wearer to partake of all the delightful hors d'oeuvres and gustatory feasts without fear of bursting their frocks at the seams. Hmmm... How's that to egg you on?

It needs to be said, though, that the look is not for everyone. While the cocoon is decidedly more forgiving than slinkier cuts, there are some guidelines for pulling off this look.

Skinny poles

While a woman doesn't have to be reed-thin to wear a bubble shape, having skinny poles is an advantage.

"If you're pear-shaped and you have slim legs, wearing a cocoon-like coat or dress can hide all your unwanted bulges and show off your sexy limbs," says Jenni Epperson. "Anything in the middle is basically concealed so the focus is on the arms and legs, making you appear slimmer."

Unless you opt for a skirt length that grazes the floor, those with less-than-lean lower limbs could end up looking like sausage links, she adds.

However, long lengths present another problem for the vertically challenged, as the egg silhouette can weigh them down, Epperson explains. Short dresses or separates are the astute options for petite Filipinas.

The key is to balance, suggests stylist Maureen Disini.

"Increase volume only on one-half of your body. You should aim to have a neat or close-fitting top on the other half. Don't attempt to wear blown-up garments all teamed up together, otherwise you will end up looking like a marshmallow. Ensure that your waist is cinched to create more definition to your body silhouette."

The idea, adds Epperson, "is to look like a Popsicle," or an inverted one—"a voluminous top paired with skinny jeans, leggings or pencil-cut skirts, or a bubble skirt paired with a tank top, tube top or plain cotton tee."

Disini also suggests pairing bubble skirts with cropped jackets and shrugs, or a sheer top for nights in the town. Opaque tights that are so hot this season will also give the look "a modern sexy edge."

"It's a very tricky silhouette," stylist Millet Arzaga, who put the looks for this spread. But coat popularized by Jackie O classic and would be safest for en," she says.

The bubble calls for footwear—stacked heels, pl sassy booties, says Disini.

"Accessorize with either wi belts, stacked bangles and necklaces or a big bag."

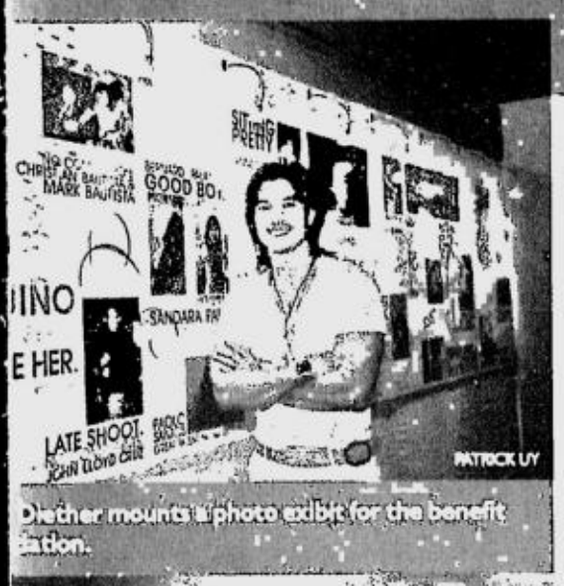
"You don't have to copy catw adds, but "you have to make what you're wearing. If it's no push it."

Even then, "Don't be skepti to have fun!"

E-mail cmoral@inquirer.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WHITE IS RIGHT. Laurel, Ramos-Diaz and Eala present immaculate collections.



Diether mounts a photo exhibit for the benefit ation.

LIFE IS ALL GOOD. Rajo Laurel, AJ Dee, Diether Ocampo, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Rhett Eala, Patrice Ramos-Diaz and Enchong Dee

foundation. cheerleader Tessa Prieto- epted the atmosphere ener- e night's festivities.

notes
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for you, don't

l. Learn how

EDGAR Madamba dress (to order, 0917-6286610); Salabianca necklace used as bracelet, P399; Unisa at CMG shoes, P4,999

sheer pleasure.
no guilt.

great taste. no calories.
Have it ALL

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Rockin' new collection

B.U.M. EQUIPMENT'S latest collection draws from the "Rockstar Super-Nova" craze around the world. It consists of edgy pieces that allow the wearer to take inspiration from current rock icons like British Pete Doherty.

B.U.M. Rocks includes bomber jackets and distressed denim jackets to complete an ensemble, black tees with hints of flashy red.

Women can have midriff tops and baby tees with interesting fabric treatment and detailing. Tribal emblems in contrasting colors dominate this season's patterns. Subtle appliqués of lace and studded embellishments make some pieces more feminine.

B.U.M Equipment's latest offerings are available at all department stores nationwide.

Are you free on September 12?
We want to set you up with 69 hot guys.

Grab a copy of the September 2006 issue of Cosmopolitan Magazine to find out how you can score tickets to this by-invitation-only party.

Log on to: www.cosmomagazine.com.ph/hunks for more details

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METROBANK 44

FAMI and CEAP launch Financial Stewardship Series

Photo shows FAMI Vice Chairman and FMIC EVP Roberto Juanchito T. Dispo giving a lecture on Philippine capital markets to the attendees of the first Financial Stewardship Series organized by FAMI and CEAP held at the Penthouse of Metrobank Plaza in Makati City.

First Metro Asset Management, Inc. (FAMI), a joint venture between First Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC), the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) and Marist Development Foundation, together with the CEAP Retirement Plan Office recently launched the Financial Stewardship Series, a quarterly forum geared towards educating the treasurers of the of the Catholic education sector on sound financial management practices and intelligent investing.

The first Financial Stewardship Series was held at the Penthouse of Metrobank Plaza in Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Carrying the theme, "Where to Park Your Money These Days", the forum was participated in by school directors and treasurers of CEAP member schools in Metro Manila.

FAMI Vice Chairman and FMIC Executive Vice President Roberto Juanchito T. Dispo gave a comprehensive overview of the financial markets in the country. Unit Investment Trust Funds (UITFs) and Marked-to-market valuation of fixed income securities were discussed by Augusto M. Cosio Jr., Program Designer and Resource Speaker in Financial Markets of the Ateneo Professional Schools Center for Continuing Education. FAMI President and FMIC Vice President Mr. Eduardo A. Mendoza meanwhile lectured on the opportunities and risks of investing in mutual funds.

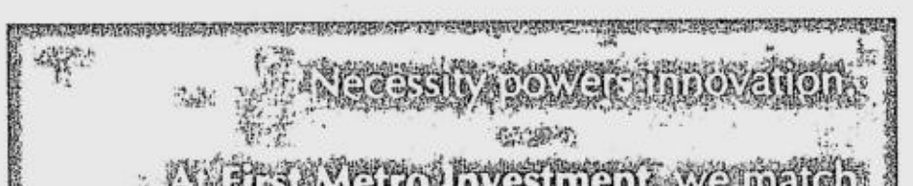
Mr. Dispo said that FAMI including the activities it undertakes is not just a business venture for First Metro Investment, the investment banking arm of Metrobank, but more importantly, it is a part of the fulfillment of the company's vision of promoting the Philippine capital markets and financial literacy throughout the country. FAMI and CEAP are in the preparation stage for the rollout of the Financial Stewardship Series nationwide.

FAMI currently manages the First Metro Save & Learn Equity Fund (SALEF), the best performing stock market mutual fund in the market today, and First Metro Save & Learn Fixed Income Fund (SALFIF), a relatively new bond fund competing tightly against established fixed-income funds.

CEAP is a national association of around 1,200 Catholic schools, colleges and universities in the Philippines. It has offices in each of the country's regions and has over 65,000 employees nationwide. Marist Development Foundation (Marist Brothers) on the other hand is an international Catholic religious congregation with around 5,000 members in more than 70 countries.

ADVT.

Empowering Performance



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www.firstmetro.com.ph

Development Bank of the Philippines
PhP 2.35 Billion
Unsecured Subordinated Notes
Joint Lead Manager & Selling Agent
January 2006

First Gen Corporation
PhP 9.09 Billion
Initial Public Offering
of 193,412,600 Common Shares
Participating Underwriter
February 2006

ATR KIMENG
ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners, Inc.
PhP 75 Million
Term Loan
Arranger & Funder
May 2006

ORIX
ORIX Metro Leasing & Finance Corporation
PhP 200 Million
Corporate Notes
Issue Manager
April 2006

SM PRIME HOLDINGS
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.
PhP 3 Billion
Floating Rate Notes
Arranger
June 2006

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY
Philippine Savings Bank
PhP 751.7 Million
Rights Offering
Financial Advisor
May 2006

PNB
Philippine National Bank
PhP 5.5 Billion
Tier 2 Offering
Co-Manager
August 2006

Quedan Rural Credit & Guarantee Corporation (Quedancor)
PhP 250 Million
Corporate Notes
Joint Issue Manager & Lead Arranger
May 2006

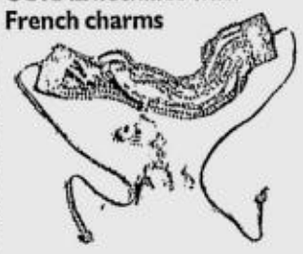
SMART
Smart Communications, Inc.
PhP 5 Billion
Term Loan
Arranger
August 2006

HERMÈS French cuff

TURTLE stone bracelet

PEARL necklace with vintage handmade lace

CORAL necklace with French charms



ON ROCIO: Saks Fifth Avenue dress with graphic print from Modern Mythology, Black Onyx with Gold Trifari necklace and Van Dur European gold hoop earrings from Firma

Leica Carpo and Celine Gabriel's passion for fashion and love for timeless pieces have resulted in the specialty boutique Modern Mythology

New vintage

IS VINTAGE JUST ANOTHER ROMANTICIZED TERM for secondhand? Are flea market or even garage sale finds considered vintage pieces? One man's trash is another man's treasure, after all, so who's to say what's precious nowadays?

ON NIKKI: T-shirt and red printed '50s dress from Modern Mythology, YSL black velvet pumps, H&M cap, Paul Smith leather satchel

Wear classic dresses like a jumper with an inner shirt to give it a modern twist. Add a rocker bag (instead of the usual "proper handbag") and sky-high platforms to kill the saccharine sweetness of the look.

Collectors and purists will probably state that for clothing and accessories to be considered vintage, they should be at least 15 years old or more, or made before the 1990s and after the late 1920s. Usually, an item's quality is strictly determined based on its fabrication, style and durability.

But when I ask stylish ex-officemates Leica Carpo and Celine Gabriel to define (or should I say redefine?) vintage, they say it is not just about pieces that are old. It can also refer to items that have a story to tell.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

The duo's passion for fashion and love for vintage have resulted in Modern Mythology, a specialty boutique that offers mostly interesting vintage pieces plus a smattering of new items that can be worn with unique finds.

"We chose to open a vintage store because we thought about everything that we love in our wardrobe and it turned out to be pieces from our moms and grandmoms," says Celine.

The partnership makes a lot of sense, since both obviously have an appreciation of each other's tastes. Both prefer to dress in what they call "conversation-piece looks" as opposed to studied designer ensembles.

"When in doubt, we err on the side of vintage rather than trendy, of course," says Leica.

Modern Mythology's offerings include items that both women handpicked on the premise that if they like the pieces, maybe someone out there will like them, too. Not a very scientific approach perhaps, but given their exposure, good taste and strong personal styles, Leica and Celine are probably on the right track to retail stardom.

ON THEA: Ilaya Couture shorts, retro rock shirt layered with long-sleeved cotton tee from Modern Mythology, Paul Smith knit vest, Topshop skinny scarf, H&M cap and Donna Karan boots

Vintage tees are a wardrobe must-have. They add a cool rock 'n' roll edge when worn with suits or pretty skirts. When worn with micro shorts, they help give a tougher vibe.

They obviously have an eye for prints, which are potential standout pieces in a wardrobe. Their current collection is replete with a good selection of designs, from geometric patterns to fun, quirky prints to soft florals. The best part is that their items are one-of-a-kind, so there's no risk of bumping into anyone with the same outfit or recognizable print.

Their pieces are also markedly soft and feminine.

"We always go for pretty and we don't want

This is truly a signature piece. The colors and the print will make it memorable for any occasion. Dress it up with sky-high stilettos or dress it down with metallic slippers and a tank top. What's wonderful about jersey is that it can work on the beach or on a big night out in town with minimum fuss.

ON ROCIO: '70s Oleg Cassini skirt and top from Modern Mythology, gold bangles, flat gold slippers

the clothes to stand out m
son," says Leica.

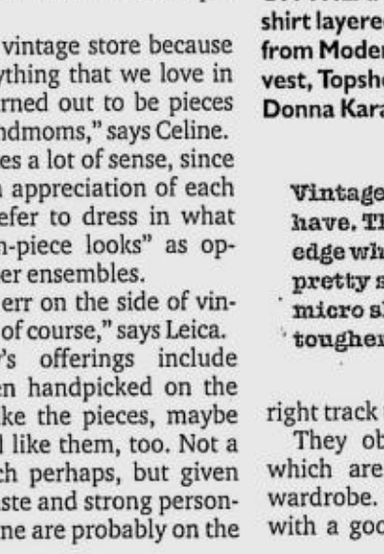
In addition, they have a
accessories, from quirky litt
and a matryoshka doll neck
pearl and lace necklace. F
fashionistas, there's an Herm
choose from.

To date, the partners have
kets of Rome, Madrid, Mila
and Paris, to name but a few
is always a challenge but
learning how to edit down t
pieces.

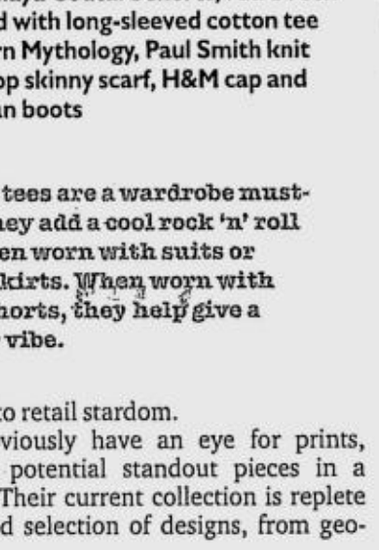
The fashionable friends
tage items can transcend tre
also quick to say that item
worked.

"Never dress up in vinta

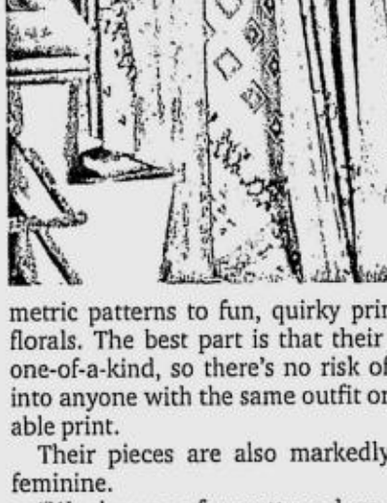
AN EQUALLY striking watch from a previous collection complements this Rosette necklace.



A TYPICAL Rosette piece is less chunky to appeal to a younger market.

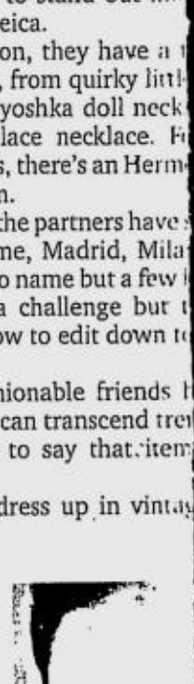


ROSETTE earrings with 2.4-karat diamonds and 12.3-karat fancy sapphires



ROSETTE necklace with 2.3-karat diamonds and 27.5-carat fancy sapphires

Each stone in Bulgari's new Rosette collection is 'dome-faceted,' which explains its unusual brilliance



Brilliant blooms

By Alex Y. Vergara

BULGARI'S LATEST JEWELRY collection is again inspired by colorful flowers. But unlike the Flora and other similar lines in the past, the Rosette is softer and more intricate, to appeal to a younger but equally wealthy clientele.

Just the same, the limited-edition pieces composed of necklaces, bracelets and earrings are of "heirloom-quality." Made of pavé diamonds and naturally colored sapphires set in 18-k yellow gold links, each item comes with a gem certificate attesting to its authenticity, color and clarity.

"It's definitely a piece you can wear with pride today and bequeath to your children and grandchildren in the future," says Mario Katigbak, general manager of Bulgari in the Philippines. "Its value is bound to appreciate over time."

To give their clients a chance to "sample the Bulgari lifestyle," Katigbak and his team recently hosted a formal dinner at Shangri-La Makati's Shang Palace.

Before the night was over, Manila's top female models, garbed in off-the-rack dresses from Rustan's, emerged from the shadows wearing Bulgari's latest baubles. The show, directed by Jackie Aquino, did away with the traditional ramp, as models made their way around tables to better show off the pricey merchandise.

In keeping with Bulgari's tradition of producing only the finest hand-crafted jewelry, each piece in the Rosette line also possesses the same characteristics that have made the Italian brand famous the world over. In other words, it has been designed to flatter and not overpower its wearer.

"Not a few have attempted to copy us," says Katigbak, "but they can't seem to get the (jewelry's) fit and the way it falls right."

The secret, which isn't exactly a classified one, is in the number of links found in each Bulgari piece. While others try to cut corners by limiting the number of links, Bulgari doesn't resort to such restrictions.

Such a practice, albeit a costly one, results in jewelry pieces that "move" with the wearer yet are stable enough to stay in place, says Katigbak. Pendants don't overturn, nor do they weigh down a delicate neck.

Katigbak also attests to Bulgari's prongs or "teeth" that securely hold each stone in place. They're sturdy but fine enough not to obscure those beautiful gems, he says.

Each stone in the Rosette collection is also "dome-faceted," which explains its unusual brilliance. And because they're naturally colored, the featured sapphires—in pink, lavender, yellow and blue—are reportedly rarer than their artificially colored counterparts.

"Colored sapphires are that rare, we can only make a limited number of pieces," says Katigbak. "And since no two stones are alike,

MAKEUP artists and hair stylists from Toni & Guy go for the clean and classic look to enable each model to show off those jewels better.

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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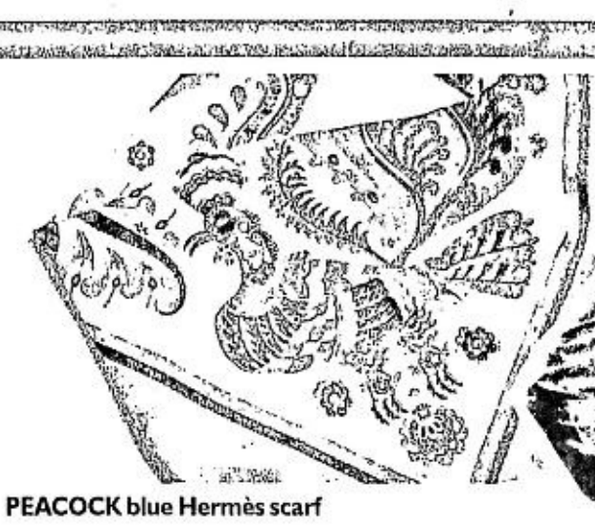

ON THEA: '60s shift dress from Modern Mythology, Gucci bag, Itsie-Bitsie belt, green Italian shades

toe. It's still all about the mix," they wisely warn.

Modern Mythology is located at the mezzanine level, unit 106, 1st Midland Condominiums, 109 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village. Visit www.modernmythology.net, e-mail modern.mythology@gmail.com, call Leica 09175301383 or Celine 09178362175.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Collect shift dresses in unique prints. They are true classics. The shape is universally flattering and when done in unique prints, they're a refreshing alternative to the LBD. They are best worn with closed front flats or kitten heels. For an edgier approach, wear them over straight-legged jeans or with knee-high boots.

nent big jewelry with flat shoes or sandals to offset the potentially "serious" look. Fashion is better served when it is less intense and treated with a sense of humor.

PHOTOGRAPHY PATRICK UY
STYLING LEICA CARPO
AND CELINE GABRIEL
MAKEUP GELA LAUREL USING LANCOME'S
FALL/WINTER COLLECTION
HAIR BORGE ALOBA
FOR L'OREAL PROFESSIONAL
MODELS THEA JACINTO,
ROCIO LOBREGAT, NIKKI BILOG

ROSETTE necklace with 4.1-karat diamonds and 34.2-karat fancy sapphires

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un collection of
French charms
ace to a kitschy
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s cuff or scarf to
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day's rich and famous may not like
ky jewelry, but even supposedly younger
s put a premium on exclusivity.

nail the author at avergara@inquir-n.ph

Lean and Heart-Healthy Cuisine

Veteran culinary chef Willie Domingo has a unique professional mission: to help spread the word about the benefits of healthful cooking, with a special emphasis on taste and presentation, in a most unlikely place—the hospital environment.

As the resident Executive Chef at St. Luke's Medical Center's Food and Nutrition Department, Chef Willie parlays his working experience from a long line of 5-star hotel and resort chains like the Shangri-La, Hyatt and Sheraton, to name a few, into a value-added service to raise the quality of patient care at St. Luke's. He also hopes to change people's perception about hospital food.

Thus far, the gourmet chief has come up with a wide selection of healthy food recipes catering to the upmarket clients of St. Luke's executive lounge. Heart-healthy pizza, pasta and salad, for instance, can now be ordered from a special menu tailored to individual tastes and dietary specifications. These dishes are exceptional not only for their palate-pleasing qualities, but also for the stamp of healthy nutrition from the hospital's dieticians and nutritionists.

Gastronomic Health Food Ideas. Chef Willie conducted a lot of research in the kitchen before he was able to produce his line of meals that are good for the heart and body. Here are some of his secrets in preparing for a healthy diet:

• **Use the freshest ingredients.** Mediterranean therapeutic cuisine includes healthful components such as fresh herbs and spices, and nature's bounty like extra-virgin olive oil and fresh mozzarella. It shuns cream sauces, heavy cheeses and red meats high in saturated fats. For carbohydrates, the use of fresh al dente pasta, healthy polenta or corn grits, and risotto Arborio is recommended.

• **Choose green, leafy vegetables.** *Bok choy* (Chinese cabbage), *saluyot*, *malunggay* and *ampalaya* are rich in health-giving vitamins and minerals. Low in fat and rich in antioxidants, these plant-based foods keep the body strong and healthy.

• **Exercise portion control.** The size of the food serving is an integral part of a healthy diet. For instance, only 80 grams to 100 grams of lean meat should be served per meal. If you overdo it, eat fish the following day to compensate.

• **Go organic.** The small and round eggplant found in authentic *pinakbet*, a staple vegetable dish in the diet of the *Ilocanos*, is one of the reasons for their health and longevity.

Ilocanos cook *pinakbet* with these undersized vegetables untouched by fertilizers and pesticides. Thus, these foods have none of the harmful chemicals that pollute the human body. Even insects that are found inside can be eaten, says Chef Willy, because they are completely organic and rich in protein.

• **Use healthy supplements as food substitutes.** For healthy food ideas, Chef Willie uses nutrient-complete **Ensure** in his recipes. While Ensure is known as a supplement, Chef Willie has weaved his magic to make it a type of food in culinary acceptance. Some of his concoctions include delicious and guilt-free salad dressings featuring a mixture of Ensure, olive oil and fresh cottage cheese. He has also prepared other sauces and desserts.

Heart-healthy Ensure contains all the vitamins and minerals recommended for daily dietary intake. It has the recommended ratio of protein, fat and carbohydrates for a heart-healthy diet. Ensure is also low in cholesterol and sodium and has the proper fat blend that meets the standards of the American Heart Association and the National Cholesterol Education Program.

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Ensure is available in major drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

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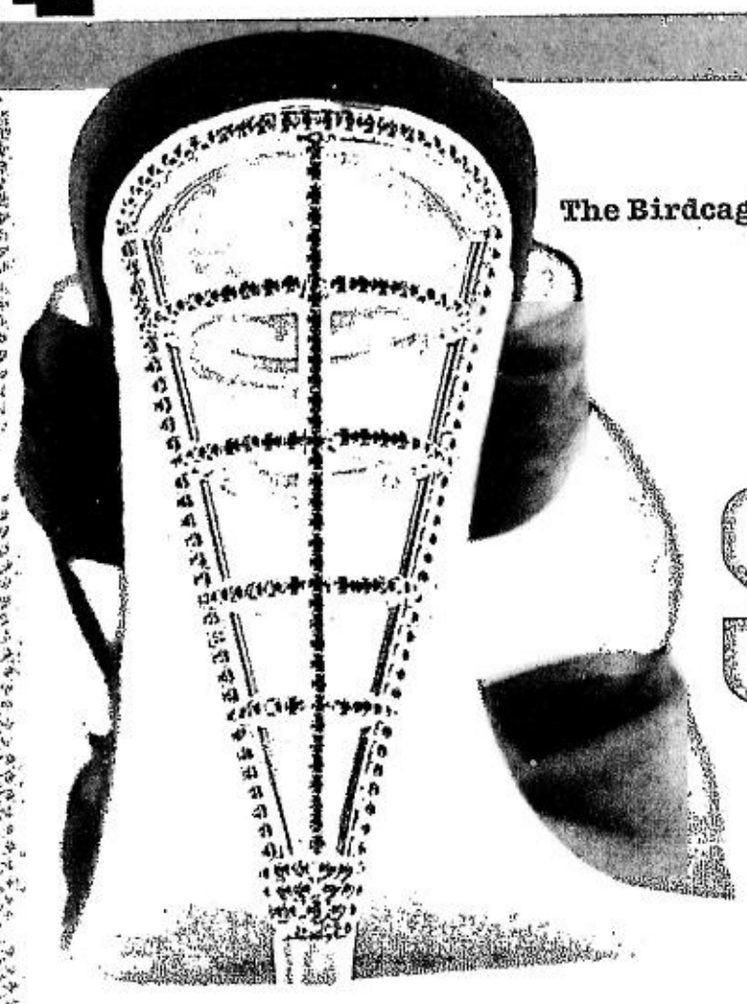
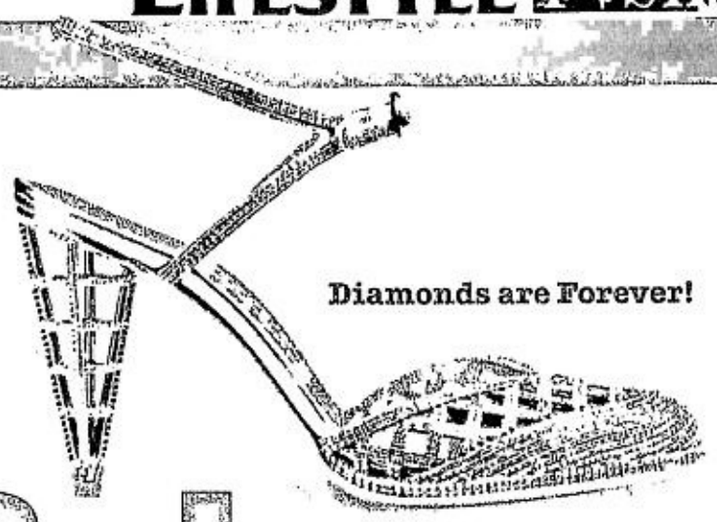


The Birdcage



Diamonds are Forever!

A Star is Born!

Sole sovereign

If there is one man who has married couture and celluloid fantasies with such beauty and grace, it's Salvatore Ferragamo, shoemaker to the stars

The Gold Rush

FASHION IS IN LOVE WITH cinema and cinema is in love with fashion. So what do you and I do? We stand in the middle, watch the sparks fly, and with as much gusto (and funds) as we can muster, we hit the boutiques.

The glitz and the glamour of both red carpet and runway are truly irresistible, and if there is one man who has married couture and celluloid fantasies with such beauty and grace, it's Salvatore Ferragamo—shoemaker to the stars.

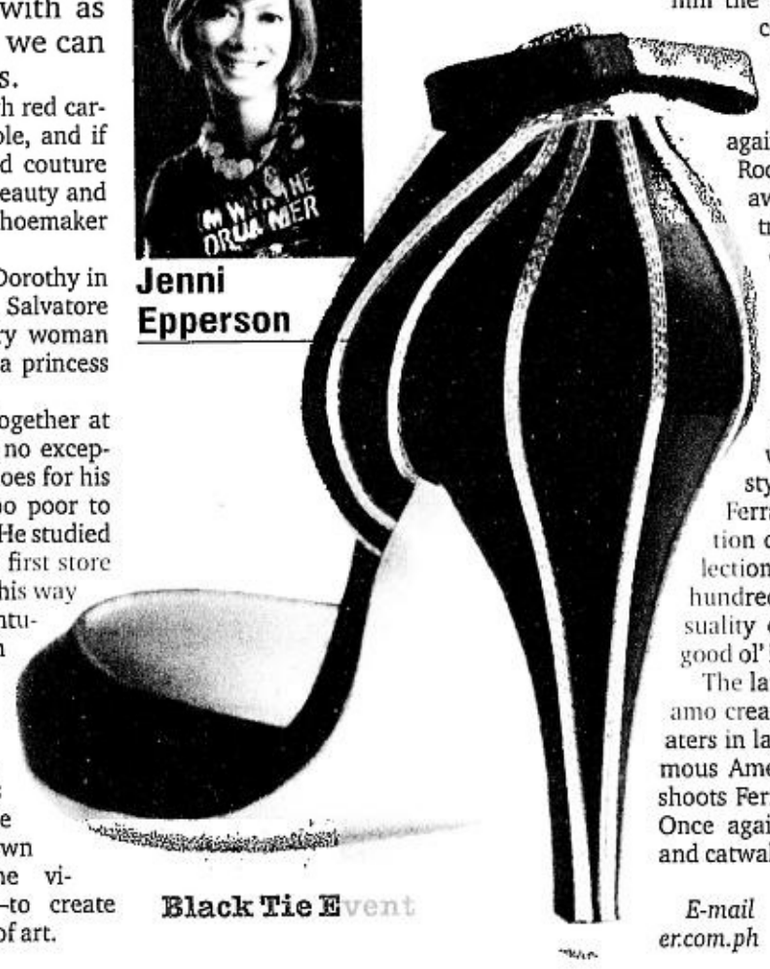
From Audrey to Marlene, from Dorothy in Oz to an emancipated Cinderella, Salvatore has fulfilled his dream that "every woman may be shod like a princess, and a princess may be shod like a fairy queen."

Geniuses usually get their act together at an early age, and Ferragamo was no exception. At age 9, he made a pair of shoes for his sister's communion (they were too poor to buy a pair) and never looked back. He studied shoemaking for a year, opened his first store at the tender age of 14, and found his way to the United States, where he eventually made shoes for the American Film Company.

He was a true visionary, with creations inspired by mosaics in Italian palaces, cubism, Art Deco, decorated with tiny glass mirrors or made of the corks of wine bottles sewn together. He had the vision—and the ability—to create shoes that were truly works of art.

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson



Black Tie Event

If Einstein had his $E=mc^2$ and Galileo his telescope, Ferragamo had the wedge shoe, the invisible sandal and the metal-reinforced stiletto heel, worn by Marilyn Monroe.

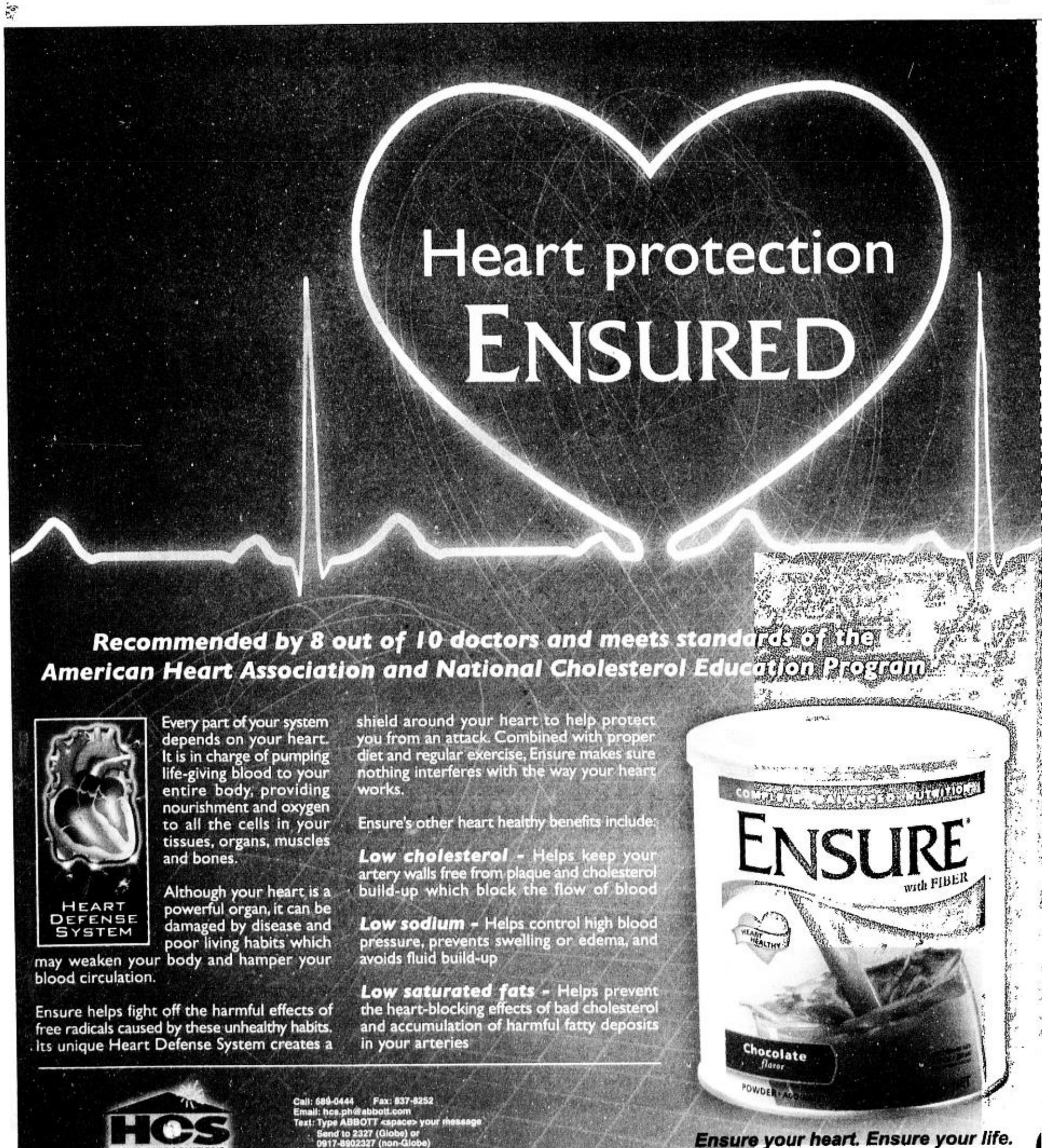
The "invisible" shoes, which featured a thin nylon strand wound around the sole, won him the Neiman Marcus Award in 1947, considered the Oscars of the fashion world.

Nearly 60 years later, the "Shoemaker of Dreams" is honored once again, this time as the winner of the fifth Rodeo Drive Walk of Style Award. The award, which began in 2003, pays tribute to the style icons that have done most to shape the worlds of fashion and the cinema.

It is a fitting tribute to a man who made beautiful shoes for Hollywood icons then and now. Ferragamo passed away in 1960, but his name is still synonymous with innovation, luxury and style—so much so that the House of Ferragamo is releasing a micro-collection dedicated to luxury, the Glam Collection, comprising shoes that shine with hundreds of crystals, sashay with the sensuality of Josephine Baker, and flirt like good ol' Marilyn.

The latest Hollywood film to star Ferragamo creations is "Fur," which is due in theaters in late 2006. Nicole Kidman, as the famous American photographer Diane Arbus, shoots Ferragamo shoes for Harper's Bazaar. Once again, the romance between cinema and catwalk is very much alive.

E-mail the author jfashion@inquirer.com.ph



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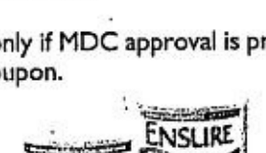

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Biggest beauty center opens

Perfume and cosmetic retailer Marionnaud has found its first home outside of Europe at Mall of Asia

STORY ON PAGE F3

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Joining forces of Financial Powerhouses

METROBANK 44

While most people are getting more cautious in investing their money in everything that involves insurance policies, one company is emerging to allay those fears. Backed by an internationally renowned group of companies and the Philippines' largest bank, the public can put their trust again to the industry.

Philippine AXA Life is a relatively young company in the country. In spite of this, according to the Philippine Insurance Commission, it has ranked fourth among the top life insurance companies. It posted the biggest growth of 52.53 percent in total premium income among the top 5 players in 2005.

Philippine AXA Life is a joint venture between Global AXA Group, which is based in Paris, France, and Metrobank in the Philippines. Global AXA Group is ranked 15th in the Fortune 500's largest corporations in terms of revenues.

It was announced recently that the Global AXA Group acquired a major European insurance company, which will therefore improve our ranking further," said Andrew Alcid, president and CEO of Philippine AXA Life.

In the Philippines, the company currently offers life insurance products however, there are plans to expand the products and services going forward.

The strongest product so far of the company is the Investment Linked Insurance Product (Honey Pot and Honey Series), whose fund value is tied to the performance of the underlying investment.

Philippine AXA Life has a 10 percent market share with close to a hundred thousand customers at present.

Although it is identified with the A/B market, the company is looking at serving the investment and protection needs of other market segments in the country.

"The key is really how we define the customer base so we are able to satisfy specific requirements of certain market segments," Alcid said.

With this move, Philippine AXA Life is currently developing new products that will be offered to other customer segments.

The company distributes mostly through its Bancassurance channel given the vast branch network of Metrobank.

According to Alcid, Philippine AXA Life is one of the companies that pioneered Bancassurance in the Philippines. "We are very proud to be the market leader in Bancassurance."

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MOI; dinner hostess Fortune Aleta-Ledesma, honorary Monaco consul; special guest Andrea Casiraghi of Monaco; Marixi Rufino Prieto, INQUIRER chair, and husband, top golfer and businessman Alex Prieto; and Francis Kasasa, secretary general, Amade Mondiale International

THE FAB Virlanie Children's Choir with Andrea Casiraghi

Monaco royal Andrea charms Manila

SEN. JAMBY Madrigal, Dr. Joerg Breuer of BMW Phils., Agnes Huibonhoa; (standing) Philippe Caretti, general manager of Makati Shangri-La, and Consul Fortune Ledesma

EMCEE of the affair RJ Ledesma, lawyer Shiela Bazar and Rina Ledesma-Villalon

JOHNNY Litton

YOUNG miss with the four Bs, future lawyer Vanessa Pastor

CLOSE pals of the celebrator at Kaya Resto: Annie Ringor, Leah Caringal and, seated, Tony Gregory with Eva Abesamis

CHE SINGSON, hostess for the celebrator at Kaya Resto, with pals Cristine Roxas Ferrer and Ching Cruz

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST eligible bachelors and *tres*, *tres* in-demand royal personality, tall and good-looking **Andrea Casiraghi**, son of Her Royal Highness Princess of Hanover **Caroline** of Monaco, was guest of honor at an intimate dinner superbly hosted by **Fortune Aleta-Ledesma** at the posh-y Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Ledesma is the honorary consul of the Principality of Monaco to the Philippines. The affair was attended by Andrea's entourage and very select guests from high society.

On behalf of his mother's nongovernmental organization, Association Mondiale des Amis de l'Enfance (Amade), Andrea readily accepted an invitation by Amade Philippines president lawyer **Eric Mallonga** and Amade's partner-organization, Virlanie Foundation, headed by **Dominique Lemay**, to visit Amade's beneficiaries and other advocacies that had been championed by Princess Caroline during her visit to the country two years ago, *palanggas*.

Andrea's constant companion was Amade Mondiale's secretary general and Monaco's consul general to South Africa, **Francis Kasasa**.

The following evening, Andrea's attractive Colombian girlfriend, **Tatiana Santo Domingo**, jetted in from Paris and joined him for a sit-down dinner hosted by our town's old-wealth socialite, **Mely Concepcion**, and her husband, true southern gentleman **Paeng Hechanova**. (More on that dinner sooner than soon.)

Après an excellently prepared sit-down dinner personally supervised by *tres charmant* **Philippe Caretti**, brilliant general manager of Makati Shangri-La, a toast was held in honor of Andrea by Fortune's son, Manual Magazine editor in chief **RJ Ledesma**.

This was followed by the affair's highlight, an awesome heartwarming musical performance by the Virlanie Foundation Children's Choir, which had us all in complete attention with its beautiful traditional and contemporary Filipino songs, dahlings. It was the same choir that sang for Princess Caroline the last time.

Après two encores, the children were completely overwhelmed that Andrea not only thanked them for such a splendid performance, but gave each one of them a peck on the cheek. They shrieked in delight and the guests applauded Andrea's generosity.

Without batting an eyelash, I must say it was one evening that would not be forgotten by the children, *palanggas*.

New Greek resto

CYMA, the excellent Greek restaurant that has taken Boracay by storm, is now in Cosmo Manille, *palanggas*.

CYMA Greek Taverna opened with a grand bang in an all-white party on the sixth floor of the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza with partners **Robby Goco**, **Nino Zulueta**, **Christine Singson Meehan**, **Tanya Olea**, **Miko Nubla** and **Gina Goco-Morales** welcoming the guests and patrons.

Showing their support were Robby's parents, **Raul Goco** and **Marietta Primicias Goco**. They chatted with **Pilar Javier Teehankee**, wife of the late Chief Justice **Claudio Teehankee**, and grandmother of Nino Teehankee Zulueta.

Rep. **Eric Singson** of Ilocos Sur was there to support his daughter **Christine S.**, who was with her husband, **Anthony Meehan**, and hard-working brother, **Owen Singson** of Rembrandt Hotel.

Super-efficient CYMA Shang manager **Manna Goco** entertained the invitees, *palanggas*.

CYMA Boracay's brilliant partner, **Sunshine de Leon**, also graced the opening with **Diana Jean Lopez** and brother **Miguel de Leon**. **Jun Poblador**, artist **Kiko Escora**, and popular bachelor **Antonio Aressano** were seen digging into the excellent new dishes created by Robby.

Events organizer **Karen Grupp**, equestrienne **Rebecca Dosch** and gorgeous **Cristina Garcia** swear by the "Gyros and Souvlakis" and could not get enough it! Coming from Los Angeles was stunning **Teresa Herrera**, who made heads turn.

Flying in from Boracay was **Bacchus Zulueta** of Mandala Spa and Asya Hotel, with **Donnie Capili**, manager of Waling Waling Resort, and **Verna Payawal** from Boracay. They were with the Asian Spirit rah! rah! team, *palanggas*.

The vegetarian gang loved the Saganaki Flaming Cheese and the Spinach Artichoke Fondue which *moi* went gaga over. It's an absolutely must-order dish, *palanggas*.

"Pinoy Big Brother" stars **Cassandra Ponti** and **Uma Khoumi** stayed on and on and on. For that matter, so did *moi*, dahlings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Resty's big bash

A birthday celebration is undoubtedly a celebration of life with a big smile, *palanggas*. And this is the kind of smile that is always painted on the face of popular society columnist, the well-loved **Resty Vergara**.

Resty is one happy persona who has been chronicling the lifestyle and society scene of our town for a long time. His success as a society chronicler is striking in an industry that is as fickle as fashion seasons, dahlings.

And that is why it's no surprise that Cosmo Manille's society movers wasted no time in going out of their way to host a super-fun *merienda cena* for our birthday boy.

Held at the chi-chi Manila Golf Club at posh-y Forbes Park, the birthday bash gathered Resty's close pals and new friends.

Organizing the affair were the—take note, *palanggas*—12 super hostesses: **Nene Leonor** who spearheaded and organized all the trimmings; **May Neri**; **Chit Salud**, Consul **Mellie Ablaza**, **Fe Ng**, **Karen Macasaet**, **Mabel Abaño**, **Pitang Tiongson**, **Tessie Briones**, **Baby de Jesus**, **Baby Ortiz** and **Nini Layug**.

As if that wasn't enough, Resty was given another special birthday tribute by no less than restaurateur **Kathy Park** and her husband **Alex**. Kathy owns and manages the famous Kaya Restaurant on Jupiter Street, Bel-Air.

Still yet another birthday bash for Resty was hosted by stunningly beautiful **Che Tiongson-Singson**. Che gathered a few chosen ones for a sumptuous dinner at the awesome Century Seafood Restaurant of the Century Park Sheraton in downtown Manille.

Truly, all these occasions were deserving tributes to a gentle giant of a man.

Cheers, *palanggas*.

ANDREA Casiraghi thanks choir members by giving each and everyone a kiss on the cheek.

RENE Ledesma, honorary consul of Bulgaria to the Philippines, with Pinky del Rosario and husband, Ambassador Klaus Zeller

DOMINIQUE Lemay, Virlanie Foundation president; Armin Demetillo, Virlanie Foundation chair; and Eric Mallonga, Amade Phils. president

AMONG the special invitees are Paeng Hechanova and wife Mely

THE GORGEOUS PACK. Teresa Herrera, Rebecca Dosch, Nino Zulueta, Cristina Garcia, Amanda Griffin, Karen Grupp, Cedric and Gutsy Tuason

COSMO Manille group. Edwin Maceda, Joanne, Dette Escudero, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Poblador, Robby Goco, Randy Arnigo, (standing) Andy Bolandy, Miko Nubla, and Jett Quirante

BIRTHDAY boy Resty Vergara with brilliant Rowena Tan Chua and fashion/shoe designer Diana Go at the Manila Golf Club

OUR TOWN'S *numero uno* hostess with the mostest, Consul of Guatemala Mellie Ablaza; with invitees Lydia Reyes, Zeny Cabral and Princess Monjierra Disini

IN RESTY V's wide circle of friends are businessman Jun Leonor, Ernie Liwanag, Joy Fong and Danny Uy

HOTSHOTS. Tanya Olea, CYMA's Nino Zulueta and "Lola" Pilar Teehankee, Marietta Primicias Goco, Christine Singson Meehan, Manna Goco, Miko Nubla, Robby Goco and Gina Goco-Morales

FORMER First Lady Imelda Marcos and Prince Christoph von Hohenlohe

Biggest beauty center opens

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

SUPERFICIALLY, THIS IS A beauty/fashion news. Look deeper, it becomes a business story. Look really deep, it becomes a feel-good story, somehow.

Europe's largest perfumery and cosmetics retailer, Marionnaud, has just opened at the Mall of Asia—in a 900-sq m space, which easily makes it the biggest perfume and cosmetics shop in the country. And it is Marionnaud's first shop outside of Europe and its first in Asia!

Why the Philippines? The Philippines is said to be the "sick man of Asia" (forever it seems). The country lands on CNN news only when there's a typhoon or when Fox journalists are released in Gaza and the guest analyst qualifies that "next to Iraq, the Philippines is the most dangerous place for journalists."

Given the country's association with natural and manmade disasters, the Philippines is a tough sell to investors.

But Maria Norma, strategic director for Luxury Perfumeries and Cosmetics Asia of Marionnaud, said the Philippines was a natural choice.

"Asia is a most natural extension for us. The Philippine market is strong on fragrance, more than skincare," said Norma over lunch.

"We see it as a growth area, and open to our good and wide mix of products. All eyes are on Manila."

Marionnaud chose the Philippines even before other Asian countries apparently because it sees Manila as a growth area. The market here is not as saturated as, say, New York or Tokyo.

More interestingly perhaps, the market here (women, men and metrosexuals) is open to lifestyle products and experiences.

And A.S. Watson, which owns Marionnaud and is part of the world conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa Company, has close ties with the Sys' SM Group. Watsons opened here several years back.

Marionnaud will have a soft opening at the Mall of Asia this week. It is not only ambitious, it is breathtakingly ambitious. Imagine having it all under one roof—fragrances, perfumes, cosmetics, skincare and all kinds of body treatments.

Norma stressed that Marionnaud isn't just a retail destination, it is an experience. You can have your facials, massage, makeup, pedicure/manicure right there. It is a store/spa/beauty salon all in one place.

"More than retail, it is an experience," said Norma.

Its fragrance lines, for instance, range from luxury brands already popular here, such as Dior, Bulgari, Orlane and Alexander McQueen, to those vaguely familiar, such as Bogart, Gres, Volume Lip and Patchouli.

Of French origin, Marionnaud has over 1,200 stores in 12 countries in Europe (Spain, Italy, Portugal, Austria, Switzerland, France, Russia, among others). It was acquired by A.S. Watson in 2005.

Pam Galang, formerly of Nokia, is Marionnaud's merchandise and marketing manager.

Norma says a shopper can spend as long as four hours at Marionnaud, not just to shop, but to have the gamut of beauty experience.

Who will try all of Marionnaud's offerings? Overseas workers and *balikbayan*. It doesn't take much to figure that out. Just look around in the stores and malls.

Marionnaud may have made the smart move, after all.

Tragic prince

This is surreal. In early July, we were invited by Louie Cruz and chef Ed Quimson to the anniversary of Filo's at the Fort. It was nothing grand, just a cozy dinner of Ed's *adobo* and paella, which is to die for in the Filipino food-with-a-twist resto. As the night wore on, Dr. Teyet Pascual came with Lulu Tinio, Sonia Mathay and, of course, Imelda Marcos.

Ms Marcos, who had just celebrated her birthday that night, came with two friends who had remained loyal to her through the decades, lawyer James Lynn and a good-looking man who turned out to be a prince named "Kiko."

He was Christoph von Hohenlohe, son of German Princess Ira von Furstenberg, who's the daughter of Prince Tassilo Egon Maria Karl George Leo and the Fiat heiress Clara Agnelli, according to Metro Society editor Raul Manzano.

Anyway, the interest this young prince held for me that night was that he was related to Diane von Furstenberg—one of my fashion icons. That and he seemed to be so at home here.

Kiko Hohenlohe seemed as Pinoy as one could be. It was obvious he loved the Philippines (Imelda especially) and knew a lot about the country.

Apparently, he came here regularly. Teyet and Ms Marcos were talking about how Kiko had lost 40 lb. But that night, he didn't seem on a diet: He was enjoying the *halo-halo* with ice cream.

But a few weeks later, the prince would be found dead in a Thai prison. News of his sudden death shocked Manila.

It turned out the prince had gone to Thailand in mid-July for a stay in a wellness center. The eTN report said, "He missed his return flight to Hawaii and could only get a seat three days later. Adding to his dilemma was the fact that his entry visa had passed. Concerned that he would again miss his flight, he made the innocent mistake of forging his entry card document."

As the tragic story went, airport authorities spotted the forgery and he was thrown into jail, without bail. His family came to his rescue but couldn't work on his release early enough. He allegedly fell ill shortly after and died.

Season with style

FOR FALL, COATS AND JACKETS take centerstage at Escada. The stars of the collection are its coats, sporting wide cuffs, fancy stitching and striking buttons, some with fur trims. Jackets come in jewel-colored crush silks, while cashmere pullovers have embroidered diamond filigree patterns.

It's luxurious dressing with A-line, Jackie O-inspired dresses, sleeveless tops with bow accents and flounces and English lace ruffles. Pants are straight and flared, and come in heavy satin for dressier evenings.

The Escada store is at the third level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City.

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CHRISTIAN Bautista wears a Swatch Funcky Red Tie.

MTV 2006 AWARDEE FOR FAVORITE MALE artist in a music video Christian Bautista, who has won the award two years in a row, picks his favorite Swatch watches from the new Fall-Winter 2006 Collection.

The boyishly charming baritone is all raves about the Power Trail set of watches with metal, leather and fabric straps .

The leather strap of the Yellow Glass Swatch Jelly in Jelly has a decorative sleeve on the 12 o'clock side. The matte black plastic case shows a golden ring above the sun-brushed golden dial, which has black minute indices and white dot hour markers.

The leather strap of the Electric Hours has a perforated blue suede band edged in black with red stitching, a pale sun-brushed blue dial with a blue mesh central zone and arrow-tipped brass hour and minute hands with bright red highlights and a white seconds hand mark the time.

Spontaneous Time has vertical stripes in olive green, black and ivory that run along the side of the fabric strap. The tinted gray plastic case frames a sun-brushed silver dial where a window shows the day/date in white on olive green. Broad black squelette hour and minute hands with Superlite highlights and a thin metallic seconds hand mark the time.

BIG in Black chrono

Big in Black is a chrono multidimensional black and steel timescape ranging across a black leather strap, silver stitches and steel clasp to the massive brushed steel case and dial. Mirrored metal squelette hour and minute hands and a thin seconds hand mark the time.

The amusing Freckle is the partner and perfect companion to Funcky Red Tie. Sketched on the see-through plastic strap are stretched out pigtails with red bows and a black-line girl in a little red dress. The dial is white, ringed with a hand-drawn band in black with thin white markers at all hours. Black Xs mark her eyes, big red dots, her rosy cheeks, and black lines, her fringe and smile.

Funcky Red Tie is drawn with marker-graphic style, has a slim black figure stretching from one end of the strap-street to the other. It is a canvas for an elegant sketch, long legs and red tie on one side, arms on the other and the face in the middle on the see-through case.

SPONTANEOUS Time

Christian's favorite Swatch watches are available at all Swatch stores and kiosks in all major malls. Swatch is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Gift Gate.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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BROADCAST journalist Jannelle So enjoys creative control.

My 'kababayan' Jannelle So and those 'Idols,' live

LOS ANGELES—WHEN THE recent batch of "American Idol" finalists performed in the LA stop of their concert tour last Saturday evening, who came out the winner in the arena setting?

Chris Daughtry, Lisa Tucker and **Mandisa**! Their voices held solid and clear in that huge venue; their performance and choice of songs made them a welcome respite from the rest of the pack.

Sure, "American Idol" champion **Taylor Hicks** had his cheery charm and those endearing dance moves that made him seem like he was trying to put out a fire with his feet, but he seemed to rush through his songs. Runner-up **Katharine McPhee** was exquisite with her "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" but what's new?

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Perhaps we'll have to wait until Taylor and Katharine come up with their albums to see how they hold up as artists in their own right and to see how they perform live with their own material.

In the meantime, Chris was already a commanding presence and performer Saturday night. And Lisa, with her songs that include "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" and "Your Song" (where she accompanied herself on the keyboard) showed that she could be someone we would want to watch again. The same holds true for Mandisa who took off her shoes onstage (as did Katharine—is there a trend developing here?).

The routine format of the show—two songs by a finalist and then a duet with the next performer—offered no surprises. Lisa, **Ace Young** and **Elliott Yamin** wore Lakers jerseys in honor of the venue, **Kobe Bryant** and company's home court. While Ace thrilled his fans with this outfit (which he took off to reveal an even more crowd-pleasing white undershirt), it was an unfortunate choice for Elliott on his slight build.

Paris Bennett could take a few pointers in Beyonce moves from **Lani Misalucha** in the latter's earlier Las Vegas show. **Bucky Covington** was the night's weakest performer. And oh yeah, **Kellie Pickler**? She was sexy in a red bustier and jeans.

Check out this Pinay

We were recently on the set of "Kababayan LA," a TV show hosted by **Jannelle So** that is the only weekday program of its kind in the US that focuses exclusively on the Filipino-American community.

We came away impressed with Jannelle, a cum laude graduate of Miriam College, who hosts, produces, invites the guests and writes the script (*kulang na lang siya na rin ang* camera person at director). We've bumped into Jannelle a few times before, but seeing her in action on "Kababayan LA" was a pleasant eye opener on what this petite host can do.

The broadcast journalist, who worked for six years in the Philippines before moving to LA, features community leaders, newsmakers and celebrities in her show. "Kababayan LA" is aired on LA 18 KSCI-TV, Southern California's preeminent Asian language TV station that is carried by all Los Angeles cable stations, DirecTV and DISH network. It is also available online to folks around the world on www.la18.tv/kababayan.

Shown on weekdays at 4:45 p.m. right after the Philippine news program "TV Patrol," "Kababayan LA" has a devoted following among the large Fil-Am community in the LA area. Jannelle gladly shared with me recently that her "baby," which debuted only last April, will expand from its current brisk, engaging 15-minute format into a 30-minute show on Sept. 18.

So what else does she do for the show, we asked Jannelle who brings multi-tasking to a new level. As if her current chores for the show and her other job with the Asian Journal, a Fil-Am paper, don't keep her busy enough, she is training to learn a new skill.

Memorable interview

Jannelle told me via e-mail: "I am now learning how to edit some videos, like clips from the CNN data base that we can use for the show, perhaps a news story that might be interesting to the Fil-Am community. It's quite fun. I never really liked editing much. But with this new editing system, I'm actually starting to enjoy it. This is really a one-woman show. But I enjoy the creative control so I labor and do most of the dirty work."

So far, her most memorable segment was with **Martin Nievera**. "It was the first time on TV that he admitted his girlfriend was on the family way," Jannelle explained. "During that show, I also got to sing with him. I'm a frustrated singer. Also memorable

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Hips	Shakira	C1 hips	C4 hips
Sayang	True Faith	C2 sayang	C5 sayang
SOS	Rihanna	C3 sos	C6 sos
Unfaithful	Rihanna	D1 unfaithful	D2 unfaithful
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2 (DOLBY) SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 (DTS) CLICK
4 (GOLD) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 (GOLD DOLBY) YOUR AR THE ONE
6 (GOLD DOLBY) LITTLE MAN
7 (GOLD) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
8 YOUR AR THE ONE
9 MORTUARY
10 SUKOB

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 THE BREAK UP
3 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 (DTS) CLICK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) LITTLE MAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CLICK

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 OH MY GHOST

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 (DOLBY) SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
3 KATAWAN KO ANG LANGIT
4 (DTS) AMERICAN HAUNTING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 S. P. L.
3 (DTS) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SEX EDUCATION
5 AMERICAN HAUNTING

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 RESERVED

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 WHORE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CLICK
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 RESERVED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTIME
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999*
Your life as a movie
BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

movietime PROMO

Now
Share a movie with a loved one at SM Cinema

Buy two movie tickets and get a
FREE MOVIE
ON YOUR NEXT VISIT.

Our way of thanking you for sharing your life with us.

Promo is from Aug. 14 to Oct. 15 Mondays thru Thursdays. Also applicable every 3 Day Sale (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) on particular mall within the promo period. FREE movie pass is valid on a specific 60-day period.
See Flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2440 Series of 2006.

Megamall • North Edsa • Manila • Sta.Mesa • San Lazaro • Sta Rosa • Las Pinas • Fairview • Sucat • Bicutan • Valenzuela • Molino • Bacoor • Dasmarinas • Batangas • Lucena • Marilao • Pampanga • Clark • Baguio • Cebu • Davao • Cagayan de Oro • Iloilo • The Podium • Mall of Asia Cinemas

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
ANT BULLY IN FULL IMAX 3D
11:30PM 5:30PM 7:30PM
P250 Matinee (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -After 5 pm (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -All screenings (Fri- Sun)
SUPERMAN RETURNS
9:30PM
Admission Price- P350
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STAY ALIVE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 LITTLE MAN
5 SNAKE ON A PLANE
6 JUPIT
PREMIERE CINEMA
YOU ARE THE ONE
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
DEVIL WEARS PRADA

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
DEVIL WEARS PRADA
CINEMA 2
YOU ARE THE ONE
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKEs ON A PLANE
5 SUKOB
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 JUPIT
10 STAY ALIVE
11 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
12 LITTLE MAN

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 LITTLE MAN
6 STAY ALIVE
7 JUPIT
8 CLICK
9 SNAKES ON A PLANE
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 SUKOB
12 MIAMI VICE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 JUPIT
2 CLICK
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 LITTLE MAN
6 SUKOB
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 MORTUARY
11 OH MY GHOST
12 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 STAY ALIVE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 CLICK
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 JUPIT
9 SUKOB
10 MORTUARY

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 JUPIT
5 LITTLE MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 STAY ALIVE
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 LITTLE MAN
8 CLICK
9 JUPIT

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 JUPIT
2 STAY ALIVE
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 LITTLE MAN
9 SUKOB
10 MORTUARY
11 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4333201-04
1 MORTUARY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 LITTLE MAN
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

movietime
FRESH NEW MOVIES

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 LITTLE MAN
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 OH MY GHOST
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 MORTUARY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 SNAKES A ON PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 SUKOB
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 LITTLE MAN
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 AMERICAN HAUNTING

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 LITTLE MAN
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 UNITED 93
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 STORMBREAKER
4 CLICK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 JUPIT

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 MIAMI VICE
2 MORTUARY
3 LITTLE MAN
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 JUPIT
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 LITTLE MAN
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 MORTUARY
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 JUPIT/ SUKOB
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 LITTLE MAN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 KUBRADOR
2 RESERVED
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 LITTLE MAN
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

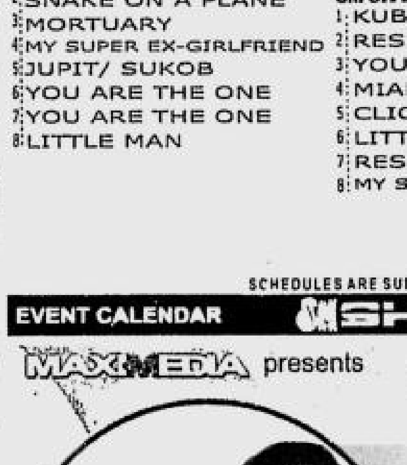
SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 STORMBREAKER
2 JUPIT
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MORTUARY
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EVENT CALENDAR · SM SHOWTIME · EVENT CALENDAR

MAXMEDIA presents



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THE PREMIERE THEATER
SM MALL OF ASIA
Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-5610/ 891-9999

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Did You Know...

Cruise's new venture
LOS ANGELES—TOM CRUISE'S PRODUCTION company, which broke ties with Paramount Pictures last week in an unusually public dispute, has signed a two-year financing deal with an investment partnership headed by the owner of a professional American football team.

Gary Gentile, AP

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City · Tel. No: 8981440-41 · DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SNAKES ON A PLANE PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15,10:25	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:05,3:25,5:45, 8:05,10:30	LITTLE MAN R13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:05
YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND R13 1:05,3:10,5:15, 7:20,9:25	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:35,3:55,6:15,8:35,11:00

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 144041
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MONDAY-FRIDAY

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 LITTLE MAN
MTRCB R-13
12.40, 3:00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00

2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB PG-13
12.00, 2:30, 5.00, 7:30, 10.00

3 YOU ARE THE ONE
MTRCB PG-13
12.05, 2:30, 4.55, 7:20, 9:45

4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
MTRCB PG-13
1 00, 3.15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE: MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
MTRCB R-13
12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special
MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
(EXCEPT FOR DEVIL WEARS PRADA AND MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND)
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99 for Cinemas 1-4 , P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, and in conjunction with other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov 14 2006 See posters and flyers for details
Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3 0608 Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1: STAY ALIVE — 11:40 , 1:55 , 4:05 6:15 , 8:25 , 10:35 — PG-13
CINEMA 2: LITTLE MAN — 11:20 , 1:30 , 3:40 5:50 , 8:00 , 10:10 — R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3: SNAKE ON A PLANE — 11:45 , 2:05 , 4:20 6:35 , 8:50 — R-13
CINEMA 4: YOU ARE THE ONE — 11:20 , 2:00 , 4:40 7:20 , 10:00 — GP
CINEMA 5: THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA — 11:35 , 2:20 , 5:05 7:50 , 10:35 — PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

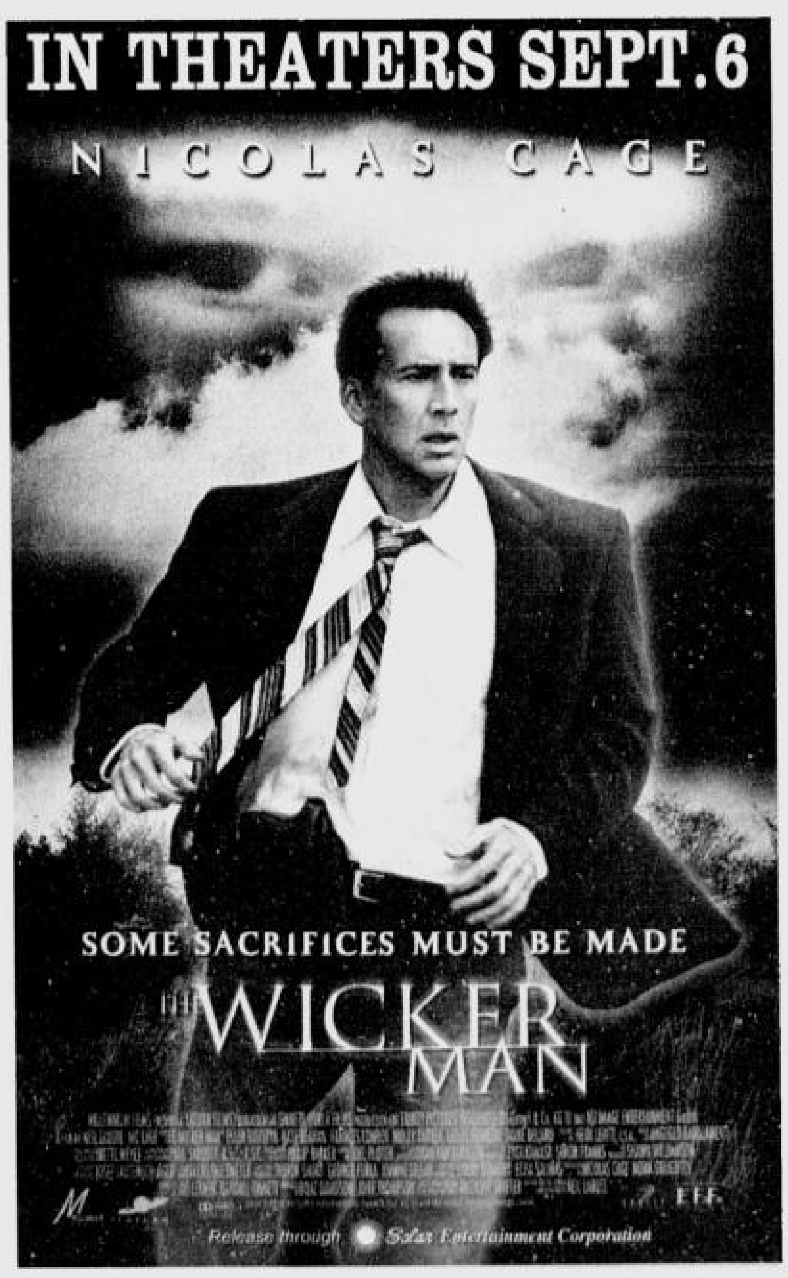
SEPT. 14 , 2006	DANITA PANER	8:00PM
SEPT. 15 & 16 , 2006	ERIK SANTOS & RUFFA MAE QUINTO	8:00PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO ... CLASSICO	8:00PM
Sept. 7,14,21,28,2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT PENA	8:00PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC.116	

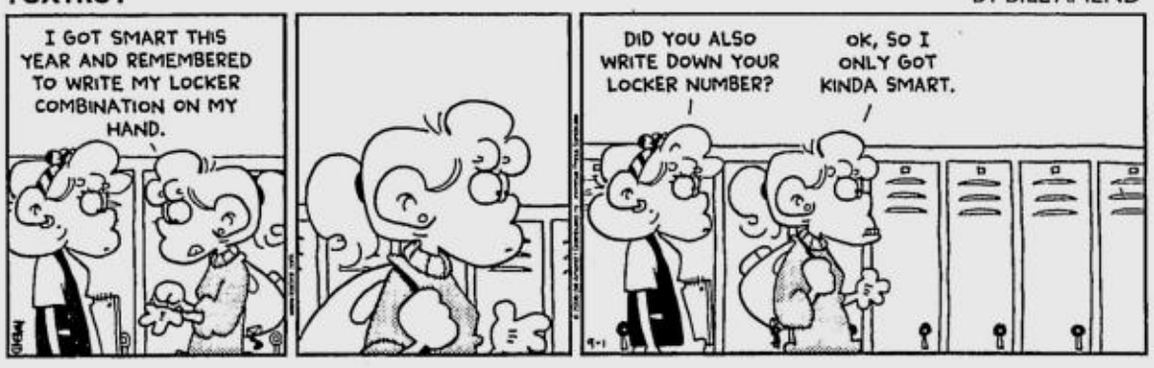
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

IN THEATERS SEPT.6



FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

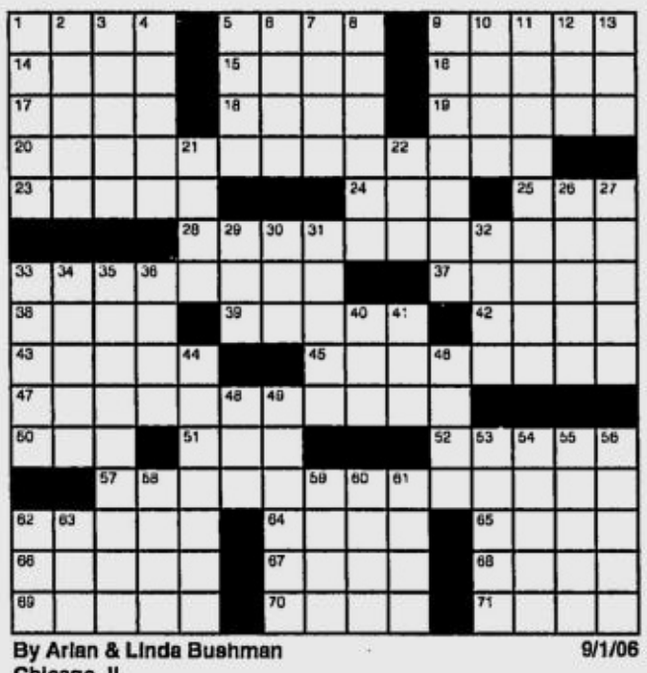
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL

9/1/06

ACROSS

1 Racetrack shape
5 Wield an axe
9 Board
14 Foal's mom
15 Celeb's perk
16 Yoga posture
17 Pond scum and seaweed
18 Panache
19 Cowboy's tote
20 Victor's moment to savor
23 Action site
24 Rock innovator Brian
25 VFW member
28 Passing years, poetically
33 Brawny
37 Composer Mendelssohn
38 Fictional terrier
39 Roulette events
42 Utah ski resort
43 Task
45 Stronghold
47 Legendary beauty
50 Raw mineral
51 Mountain pass
52 Makeshift
57 Really big pickle
62 Nudges
64 James Joyce novel, "Finnegans __"
65 12 o'clock high
66 __ Lee Curtis
67 Harrow rival
68 James of "Elf"
69 Burn up the road
70 Unwind
71 Vocalist James

DOWN

1 Cornhusker's city
2 Heroism
3 Take issue
4 Assimilate
5 Staff symbol
6 Dagger handle
7 Actor Epps
8 Shetland grazers
9 Pass along deceptively
10 Quickly, shortly
11 Music recording hub
12 Twinned pair?
13 Thai's neighbor
21 Diamond Head's island
22 Kids' card game
26 Releases
27 Baylor University state
29 Unser Sr. and Jr.
30 Fabric surface
31 Nod (off)
32 Spree
33 Rambo-like
34 "Confessions" singer
35 Pulled off a diamond coup
36 Solicitude
40 Negative connection
41 B'way sign
44 Sheathed
46 Greenhorn
48 Cartoon cave guy
49 Nosegay unit
53 Pound part
54 Ger. submarine
55 Rub it in
56 Salon supply
58 Emmy winner Falco
59 Kismet
60 Fight-stopping letters
61 Tenant's payment
62 Sleepwear, briefly
63 Eminem's genre

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

P	O	T	S	■	S	A	N	G	■	C	A	C	A	O
A	S	A	P	■	M	D	I	I	■	A	R	O	M	A
S	O	M	E	G	O	O	N	A	■	S	E	M	I	S
■	■	■	C	R	O	N	E	■	B	I	S	E	C	T
A	L	D	■	O	C	A	■	S	U	N	■	S	I	S
D	I	E	T	W	H	I	L	E	M	O	S	T	■	■
L	A	T	E	L	Y	■	A	R	P	■	H	O	R	A
A	R	R	A	S	■	A	R	E	■	R	U	L	E	D
I	S	I	S	■	M	I	R	■	R	E	S	I	D	E
■	■	■	M	E	R	E	L	Y	W	I	S	H	F	U	L
A	V	E	■	E	D	S	■	H	O	I	■	E	X	E
L	I	N	G	U	S	■	S	A	R	G	E	■	■	■
I	O	T	A	S	■	S	H	R	I	N	K	E	R	S
S	L	A	V	E	■	T	U	F	T	■	E	R	I	E
T	A	L	E	S	■	E	L	S	A	■	S	E	P	T

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9/1/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're courageous to the point of being fearless. Many could never do what you accomplish. You're tough, pragmatic and yet so charming that you're practically whimsical! (This is a most unusual combination.) You have a fine mind. You're also highly sexed. (And you're a perfectionist.) Expect to make an important choice this year. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Rocky Marciano, boxing champ; Gloria Estefan, singer; Lily Tomlin, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): If you feel you're madly in love with someone, you will definitely want to express it today. All intense feelings are aroused! (Yowsers.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel strongly about wanting to improve where you live today. Perhaps you want to buy something beautiful? Whatever you buy will reflect your strong desires.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): New relationships could begin today. If so, you feel drawn to this person as if by a magical power. Perhaps the other person represents something inside you that needs to be expressed.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Trust your moneymaking ideas today. You're in the zone. You might feel a tad obsessed about something, but you know what you're doing. (Hopefully.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel your love for someone quite strongly today. Being the dramatic person you are, you'll look for a colorful way to express it. (Others love your hijinks.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Don't worry if you feel propelled by feelings or urges you cannot identify. Today, many people feel swept away by feelings they don't understand. (Join the club—we number millions.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You feel strong bonds of friendship with someone today. In fact, these feelings are so strong that you want to help this person, or, in turn, he or she might want to help you. It's mutually beneficial.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might develop a crush on your boss today. Alternatively, somebody might ask for your artistic input about something. Today promotes romance, the arts and intense feelings. (Oh yeah.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're so keen to have some kind of new, fresh experience. Take a course, travel if you can, go someplace you've never been before. Expand your experience of the world!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today you see how to best use the resources of someone to make improvements in your own environment or the surroundings of others. This is excellent.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with close friends and partners might be surprisingly profound today. Either you or someone else can tap into deep, psychological insights. (Heady stuff!)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Trust your ideas about how to introduce reforms into your workplace. You know what you're doing. Have the courage to defend your ideas. After all, improvements are for everyone.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			1		5			
			9		6			
5	6						8	3
1	2			5			7	4
			3		1			
7	5			4			9	6
3	4						5	2
			4		3			
			5		2			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/01

Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	6	9	7	1	2	4	5	8
8	2	4	5	3	6	7	1	9
7	5	1	8	9	4	2	6	3
4	7	3	1	5	9	6	8	2
6	9	8	2	7	3	5	4	1
2	1	5	6	4	8	9	3	7
5	8	7	9	6	1	3	2	4
1	4	6	3	2	7	8	9	5
9	3	2	4	8	5	1	7	6

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Difficulty Level ★★★

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE!

THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

"This is an event. It is a rare example of a film not just living up to the hype, but surpassing it. And it is the best time you will have at the movies all summer, if not all year."

---*Christy Lemire, AP [Associated Press]*

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway MALL FarmersPlaza

Get a chance to WIN TICKETS

WESTLIFE

FACE TO FACE IN MANILA

Every P500 purchase at Araneta Center lets you join the promo!

LAST TWO DAYS

Westlife concert is on September 4 at the Big Dome | See posters & leaflets for details | Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0642 Series of 2006

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY — Gateway CINEPLEX 10 — FULL STADIUM SEATING

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30	STAY ALIVE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	YOU ARE THE ONE 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
LITTLE MAN 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	CLICK 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX		SNAKES ON A PLANE 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
		THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:40 / 3:25 / 6:10 / 8:55

ANIMALL 5

T	YOU ARE THE ONE 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	LITTLE MAN 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
A	SUKOB 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20	SNAKES ON A PLANE 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL · DTS · SDDS

LOG ON TO WWW.ARANETACENTER.NET FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

BEFORE & AFTER THE MOVIE DINE AT OVER 300 FOOD OUTLETS AROUND THE CENTER • COME EARLY & AVOID THE RUSH

Obsession with celebs gets out of hand

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EVER SINCE THE EARLIEST DAYS OF show business, audiences have been fascinated with the public personae and public lives of stars and starlets.

During the so-called Golden Years of Hollywood, this fascination was pretty much controlled by stars' and studios' publicists, who fed real or concocted accounts of luminaries' activities and statements.

After some decades, however, the thirst for realism prompted viewers and readers to look for less sanitized and studio-approved accounts, and some stars' sins of commission or omission made hits of tell-all publications.

In fact, some tattle-tale magazines embellished on the already tawdry accounts, making them even more "deliciously" disgusting than they already were. Stars began hitting back within libel suits, some of which prospered.

Correspondingly, gonzo photographers or paparazzi started stalking celebrities in a really intrusive and even potentially dangerous way, and stars began to fight back, sometimes physically.

The ante has been upped even more in this age of cyber technology, with some sites showing phone photos and videos of celebrities being stalked even more relentlessly than the mainstream show biz media.

Where will it all end? Observers fear that it's going to get much worse before authorities are forced by dire events and consequences to enforce more stringent rules to protect stars, ironically enough, from their own avid and obsessed idolaters, and from traditional and new media only too eager to profitably feed that obsession.

What are the root causes of this relentless and intrusive fascination with celebrities' perceived or invented sins? First, there's the trendiness factor. Stars set trends, so if you want to be *au courant*, you feel you have to know the latest about these pacesetters in terms of fashions and lifestyles.

Quixotically, some fans also develop a love-hate relationship with their idols! They idolize them to bits, but they also find it weirdly consoling to discover that their favorite stars have feet of sullen clay.

What's going on here? Basically, fans feel that they have the power, not just to make stars, but also to unmake them!

Perverse? You bet. The show biz scene isn't a rose garden, it's a minefield of contradictory impulses and hidden motives.

There's also the factor of wanting to feel superior—yes, even to top stars who are supposed to be pluperfect icons of humanity—until their nasty imperfections are gleefully exposed, for everyone to delight in, and feel superior to!

Then, too, there's the element of monumental envy—fans are only too human, after all, and the star-envy they feel is huge because celebrities are so much more gorgeous and famous and wealthy than their idolaters are.

With envy, of course, comes the desperate wish that the star, loved though he may otherwise be is fated to lose it all, so he'll end up as miserable as you and me.

How cynical can we get? Oh, very. The star-fan relationship is the new Greek tragedy, only this time, the catharsis is *never* enough.

So, how do we stop obsessing over celebrities? Put everything in true perspective, stop idolizing mere mortals like yourself, focus instead on *your* plus points—and, get a life!

My 'kababayan' Jannelle So . . .

From page G1

were the other 'firsts' on the show. The first time **Giselle Toengi** introduced her daughter Sakura to the public was on 'Kababayan.' It was also on the show that I introduced Emmy Award winner Charles Klapow to the Fil-Am community. He made an effort to prepare a dance for the show. I'm so proud of him. He's really good."

Her most stressful experience? Jannelle volunteered, "I had scheduled **Mikee Cojuangco** with her father, former Congressman **Jose Cojuangco**, on the show. They were in LA doing the rounds to raise funds for the Philippine athletes who are training for the Asian Games and the Olympics. I built the show around them. I was going to interview each one of them for the two segments on the show."

She continued, "On the morning of the taping, about an hour before we were supposed to tape, they called to say they couldn't make it because the house they were staying at here in LA got raided by the FBI or something. I was so stressed-out! I had to come up with a backup plan. Fortunately, they both understood my situation and agreed to do a phone patch interview. But I had to scramble to look for photos to show on the screen while they were talking to me on the phone."

Jannelle's most amusing experience, on the other hand, was when she danced the *tinikling*. "In three-inch heels!" she stressed. "It was not planned. I was supposed to close the show after a dance number from the Sampaguita Youth Dance Troupe. But I was under time by about three minutes so I had to stretch the program. I tried to interview the dancers but they couldn't talk much. They were still catching their breath after their number. So I asked them to dance again. And they asked me to dance with them in my heels."

Very impatient girl

Cool, poised and articulate when I visited her on the set of "Kababayan LA," Jannelle surprised me with her answer to my question on what she has discovered about herself as a result of running and hosting the show. "That I am a very impatient person," bared the Communication Arts degree holder who is blossoming right on TV, looking more and more glam and sophisticated these days. "I get stressed-out right away when things don't go as planned. But I'm working on that. I might die early if I don't learn to relax. Imagine getting stressed-out every day for a show? It's not worth it."

She added, "I also get impatient when I invite guests and they don't respond right away. I can't stand the wait for them to get back to me and confirm or decline. I guess that's what happens when one is raised in this 'instant era.' Also, that I can be tactless. When I watch the re-runs, I end up asking myself, 'I said that?' or 'Why did I say that?' But it's all good. I am looking forward to growing with the show."

In dealing with her mostly Filipino guests, she is struck by how "they all love to eat *pancit* and *lumpia*. I grew up with easy access to those so I wonder, 'What's the big deal?' But I guess food is something that binds Filipinos here. That and music."

When I asked Jannelle for her wish list of guests, she answered, "These are my dream guests and the questions that I will ask them: **Katie Couric**—how I could be like her; **Barbara Walters**—how to ask the right questions; **Oprah Winfrey**—how to build an empire while staying grounded and charitable at the same time; Angelina Jolie—how to snag **Brad Pitt** (he's my ultimate crush). In short, mainstream artists, of course! The ones you get to rub elbows with, have breakfast with, etc."

'Hello? Spielberg here'

Many filmmaking students have this fantasy: to get a call from **Steven Spielberg** offering them a job.

In **Gil Kenan**'s case, he got a job offer not only from Steven but from both the multiawarded director and **Robert Zemeckis** ("Forrest Gump," "Back to the Future" and "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?").

Fresh from the UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) film school, Gil, with Steven and Robert as his producers, went to direct his first full-length movie, the animated "Monster House." Now admitting to being very naïve about it, Gil thought he could just write down the names of the actors he wanted on a piece of paper and he'll get all of them. But in another case of astonishing good luck to the first-time director, all of the actors on his wish list said yes to him: **Kathleen Turner, Steve Buscemi, Maggie Gyllenhaal** and **Jason Lee**, among others.

Gil uses motion or performance capture technology—the blending of live-action cinema and computer-generated imagery process introduced by Robert in "The Polar Express"—to tell the story of how three kids discover that a creepy home turns out to be a living creature.

Eager and engaging, Gil was born in Israel and then moved with his family to London and then to LA. When we were introduced, he had that look that made me ask, "Yes, do you want to ask me something?" Smiling, he asked me where I came from. As I said "the Philippines," he cheered up some more as he gladly volunteered that in Reseda, a suburb north of LA where he grew up, he has many Filipino friends.

Gil kept veteran journalists at a Brazilian restaurant in rapt attention with his candor, intelligence and infectious enthusiasm. He looks so young. His dark good looks probably make him occasionally mistaken for an Asian Indian.

I asked the first question—what his journey has been like, to have no less than Steven and Robert as the producers of his first film.

Surreal exchange

"It's surreal being here talking about the film in a restaurant in Beverly Hills," he answered. "I went to school just down the street at UCLA. As a film/animation student there, I made a short film called 'The Lark' that won a UCLA Spotlight Award. That qualified the film to screen at the Directors Guild of America, where there were at least two 'secret' agents from the CAA (Creative Artists Agency, the top Hollywood talent firm). They came up to me after the screening and asked for a copy."

He continued, "The whole thing was surprising to me because I made this short film over a year in my kitchen, with the blinds drawn. The fact that they wanted to sign me up based on this one screening was crazy. The shock of all shocks was that a few months later, I got a call that Robert Zemeckis had seen the film, liked it and passed it on to his friend Steven Spielberg who also liked it."

"They wanted me to come in and talk to them about something called 'Monster House,'" Gil went on. "I went nuts. I kind of lost control over my arms and legs. For me, to find out that my filmmaking idols not only had seen my work and thought it was cool but that they wanted to talk to me to direct a film was out of this world. Both were, at one point in their careers, in my shoes—coming out of film school with a real hunger to tell stories."

Were there monster houses in his childhood? "Yes, there were a few," he replied. "Almost every neighborhood I lived in had at least one monster house. It all comes down to kids wanting to create stories in their world. When we first moved to LA, we lived in an apartment building where a terrifying old man was the manager. He was big. He had a cane that he would hit the ceiling with whenever the kids played too much. That was my Nebbercracker (Steve Buscemi's character) growing up. If we left any toys around the pool, he would take them at night and we'd never see them again."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIVING Stars

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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HOME BODY

Proud collector

Art's in the heart of Joey de Leon's (shown here with Ang Kiukoks and Jose Joyas) home and life.
HOMEBODY, page H4

RED CARPET

Cleavage victory at Emmys

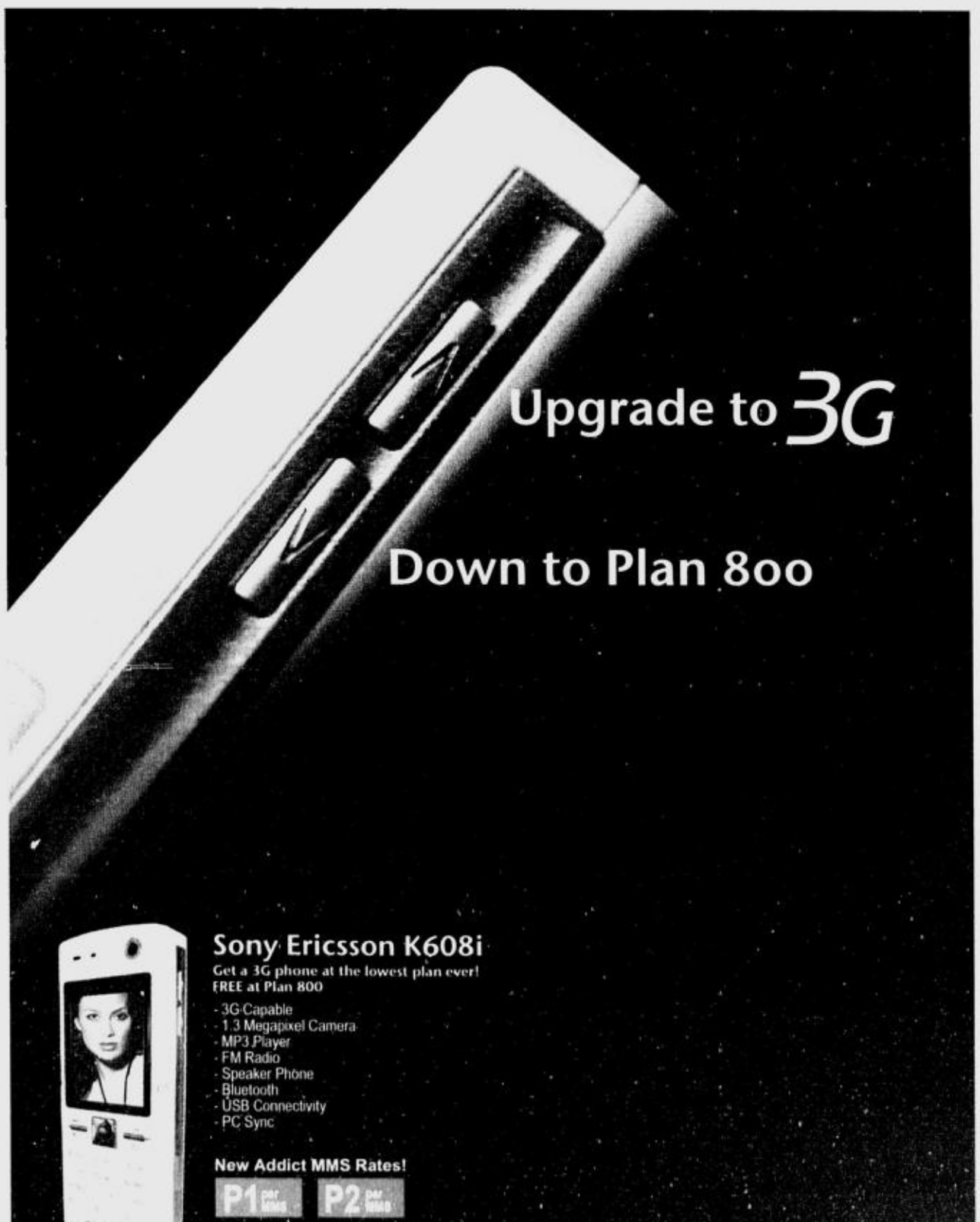
HEIDI Klum REUTERS

VIRGINIA Madsen AP

MEGAN Mullally AP

PORTIA de Rossi AP

JENNIFER Love Hewitt REUTERS



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3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
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4 STAY ALIVE
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5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
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6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
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7 LITTLE MAN
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8 THE BIG WHITE
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9 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
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10 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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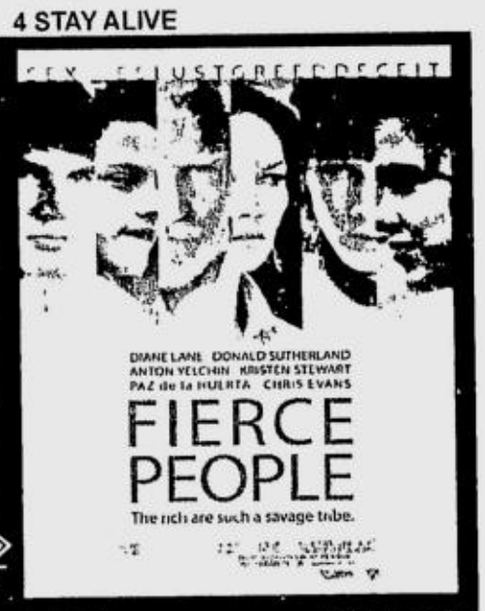

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PG-13

3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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PG-13

MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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R-13

GINA PAREÑO

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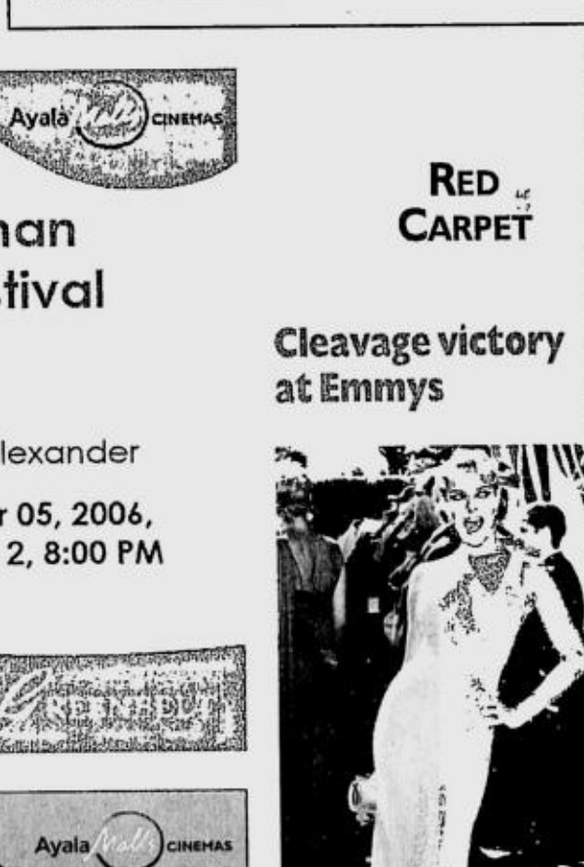
TAIL TALES



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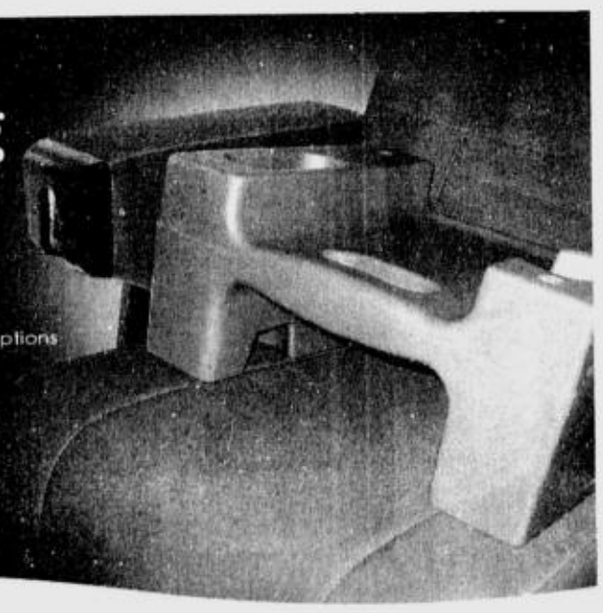
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the loss of my partner.
day, they bring joy to my

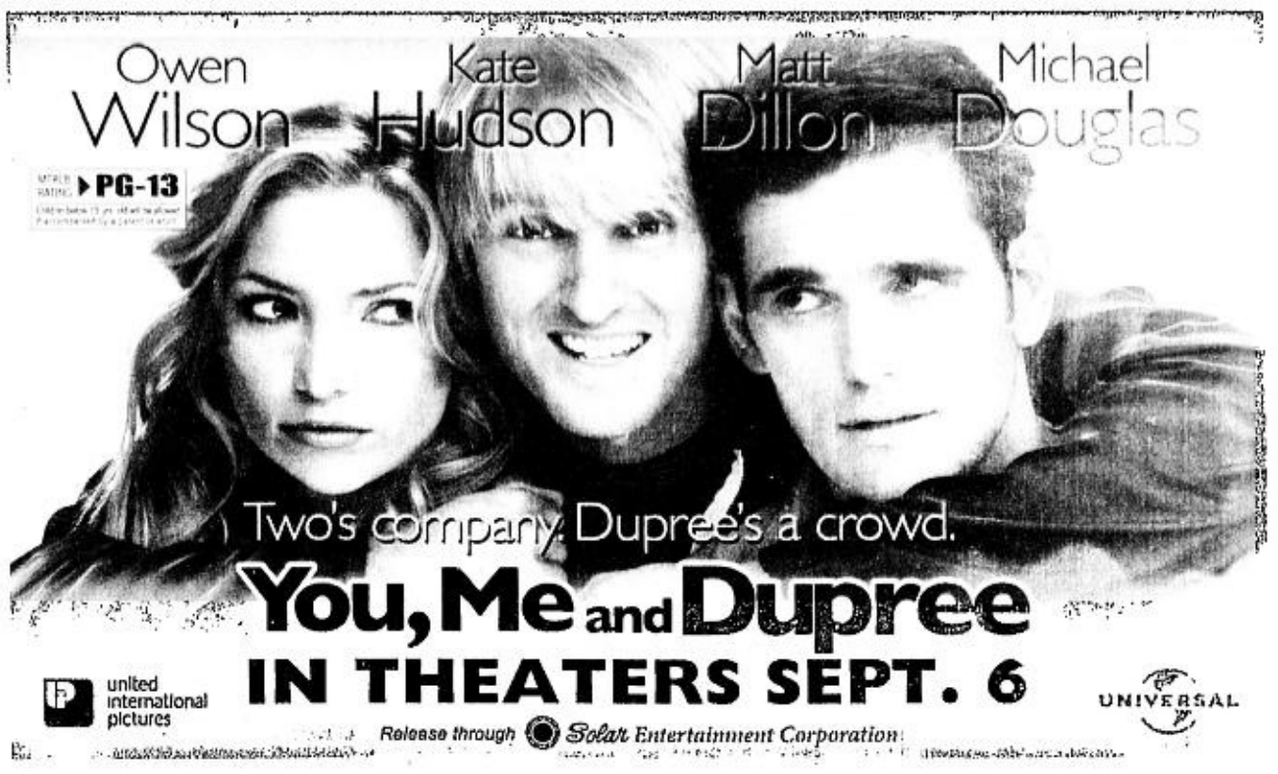
Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

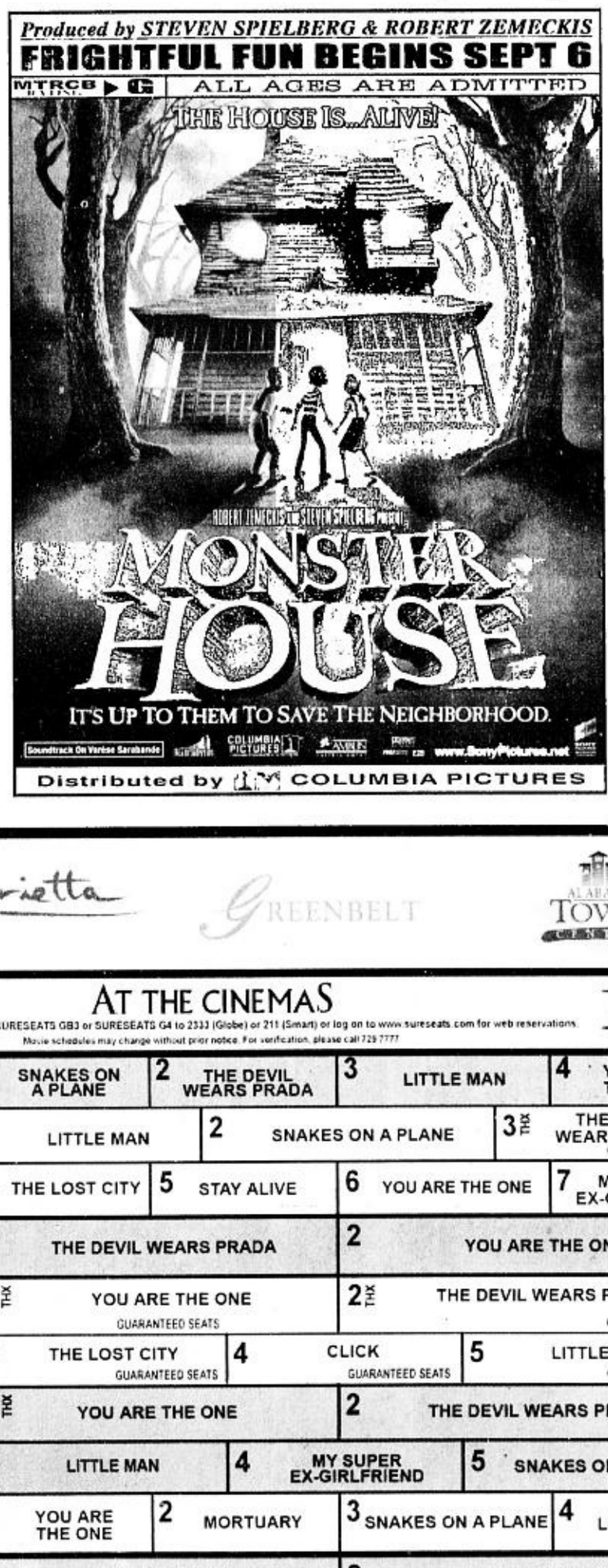
BOOKS

CIARA SOTTO

I'm reading "The Inner Voice: The Making of a Singer" by Renée Fleming. Apart from the fact that she's one of my favorite sopranos, her book talks about the advantages and disadvantages of being a classical singer. Performers can learn a lot from this book. Since I am currently studying Music, major in Voice, at the UST Conservatory of Music, I can relate to Renée's experiences.

Bayani San Diego Jr.





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		4 THE LOST CITY	5 STAY ALIVE	6 YOU ARE THE ONE	7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND		
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA		2 YOU ARE THE ONE			
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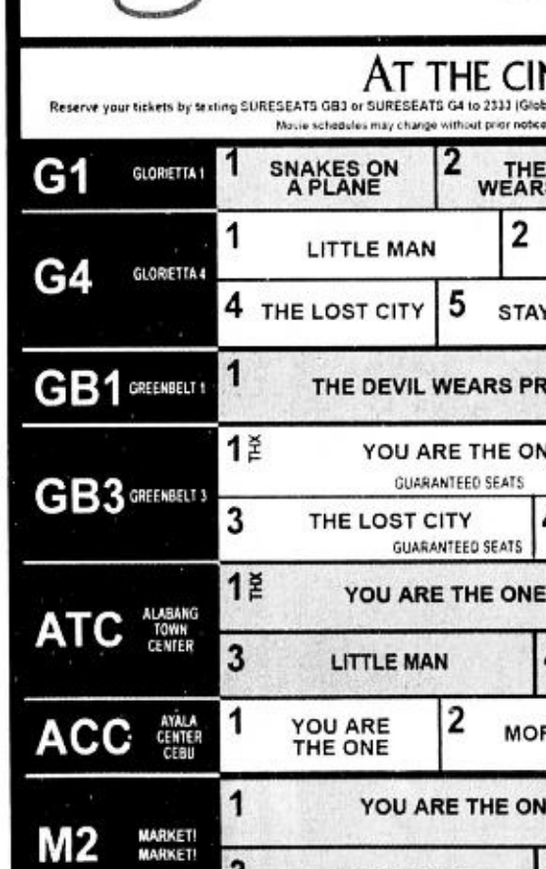

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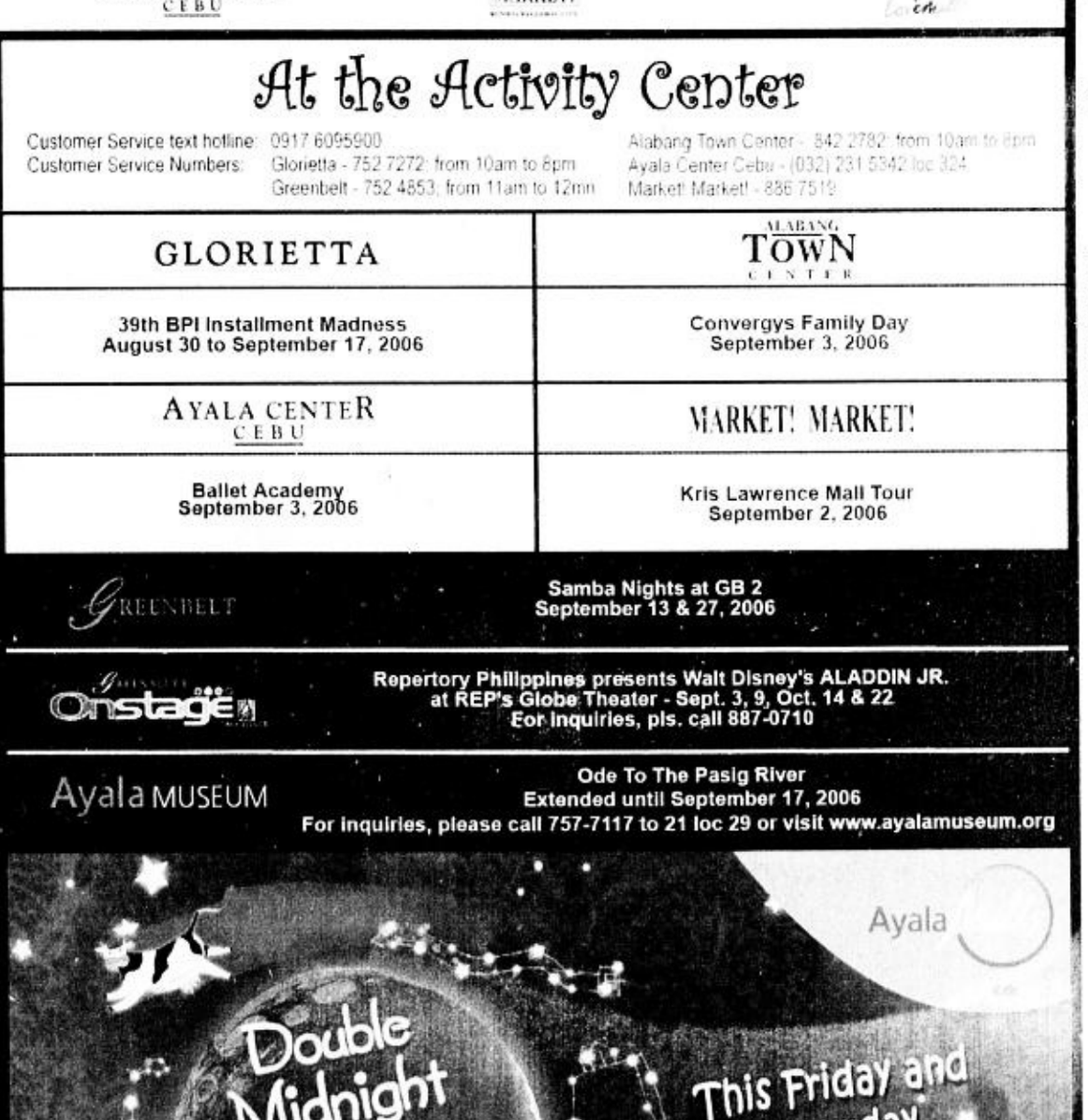

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

HOME BODY

Joey de Leon, *proud collector*

By Marinel R. Cruz

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

THE HOUSE "guardian": Solomon Saprid's "Tikbalang."

FOR A HOUSE BUILT OVER two decades ago, comedian-TV host Joey de Leon's Quezon City home still looks spanking new. It's amazing.

According to Joey's wife Eileen, their two-story French Mediterranean home has gone through several renovations. "In fact, the swimming pool used to be on the leftmost corner of the property. We moved it to the other side where there is more sunlight," Eileen told Living Stars during a visit last weekend.

She said reconstruction was also done in the kitchen several years ago. She added that the 850-sq.m. structure is repainted every five years. "For a long time, the walls were colored yellow. Joey suggested changing it to terra-cotta peach. *Pinagbigyan ko na*," Eileen said.

All over the house, even in the bathrooms, are Joey's art collections—pieces by Ang Kiukok, Ramon Orlina, Solomon Saprid and Napoleon Abueva, and his own. Stored in wooden chests and boxes are souvenirs from all his travels and memorabilia from his films and TV shows.

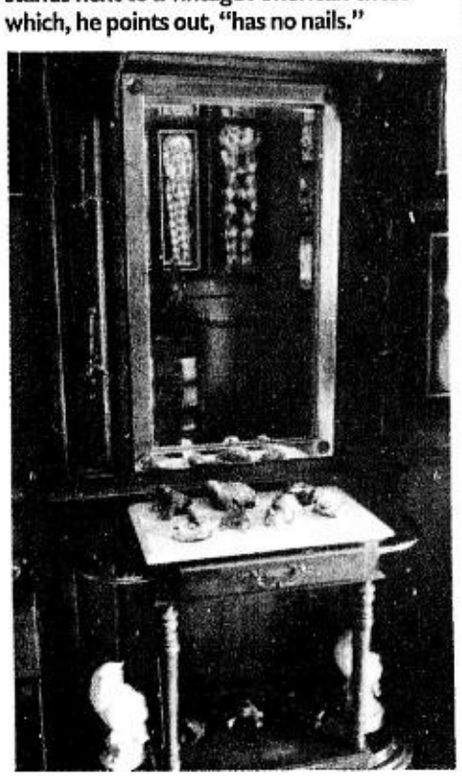
"You're seeing just half of it," the proud collector said of his art pieces. "We bought a house in another village (also in Quezon City) just for storage."

Eileen added: "He owned so much stuff, especially when I first moved in with him. His things were all over the place. *Patagilid na nga ako maglakad. Doon ako unang umiyak. Nakita kong marami akong liligpitin* (I would walk sideways. That was when I first cried, having realized how much I'd have to clean up)."

IN THE parlor, guests are greeted by paintings of harlequins by the late National Artist for Visual Arts Ang Kiukok. Joey stands next to a vintage American chest which, he points out, "has no nails."

ORLINA glass sculptures adorn a section of the living room. On the center table are works of a young sculptor whom Joey is supporting.

RUNNING water has a calming effect on the De Leons. Directly above the dry garden is a sky roof to let sunlight in. The rock on the rightmost corner, Joey points out, is "*korteng* Mama Mary."



SOUVENIRS from his travels

MORE Ang Kiukok. Joey's portrait (partly hidden) is a birthday gift from Isabel Diaz, sister of the late "Eat Bulaga" host Rio Diaz.

"JOEY likes very masculine furniture," says Eileen of the eight-seater dining table. "*Dadamitan mo na lang para may* (You can dress them up for a) feminine touch."

WHEN Eileen suggested they move the pool, Joey replied, "*Ano akala mo dyan, parang bayanihan? Bubuhatin lang?*"

Kiko in concert

THE STAFF OF SEN. FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN gave him a birthday bash on Aug. 22 at the Lamesa Grill in SM Mall of Asia.

Wife Sharon Cuneta and their babies Frankie and Miel, the entire Pangilinan clan and a few close friends were on hand to wish Kiko a happy 43rd (his actual birthday is Aug. 24.)

KC Concepcion, whom Kiko considers his "firstborn," arrived just in time from a US vacation with dad Gabby to greet her stepfather.

Highlight of the evening was Kiko's impromptu number with brothers Anthony and John. After which the birthday boy launched into a mini-concert.

As Sharon once jokingly told Living Stars: "Never hand him a mic at a party ... he'll never let go."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

PARTY! PARTY!

KIKO and Sharon celebrate

ONSTAGE, he gets by with a little help from brothers John and Anthony.

KC AND Kiko

FRANKIE cheers her dad on.

SEN. MANNY Villar

KC WITH Kiko's parents, Emma and Dony

ANTHONY and Maricel Pangilinan

MIEL watches her dad in concert.

METROBANK 44

ANNIVERSARY SUPPLEMENT

Youngest Leading Bank at 33, Still No.1 at 44

1995 was a milestone year for Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank). In that year, Metrobank overtook a large government-owned bank to become the country's largest financial institution with assets totaling ₱175.5 billion.

Now, eleven years later and over twice as big in assets, Metrobank remains the Philippines' largest with consolidated total assets of ₱588.1 billion as of end-June 2006.

"The road to becoming the country's largest bank, and maintaining it for eleven years, demanded a lot of focus and discipline from the whole organization," said Metrobank chairman Antonio S. Abacan, Jr., who served as president from 1993 to May 2006, and who, together with the leadership of founder George S. K. Ty, oversaw the bank's growth to what it is now. "We had to adapt to the ever-changing and ever-growing market," said Abacan.

In those eleven years, Metrobank expanded its network of online branches and offices here and abroad. The bank heightened deployment of its automated teller machines (ATMs) to provide better access to depositors nationwide, while increasing overseas remittance tie-ups abroad to service the growing overseas Filipino communities.

Products and services evolved as well to meet the needs of more sophisticated bank clients and to keep a step ahead of competition. The upturn of information and communication technology provided opportunities for the bank to introduce electronic banking services catering to corporate clients and the young, emerging market.

The bank's tenure as the largest bank also saw a period of industry consolidation, with a few big banks aggressively acquiring smaller banks in a bid to take over the number one position. Metrobank took advantage of opportunities in the industry and itself made strategic acquisitions that fortified its leadership stature.

The biggest and best financial institution in the country

Now at the helm, Metrobank president Arthur Ty is determined to keep the bank in its leadership position. "The competition gets keener every day," he said. "In today's banking industry, it is no longer enough just to be the biggest; we have to be the best. It means being recognized as the industry leader by all of our stakeholders – our customers, our employees, our regulators, and our shareholders."

To remain ahead of the race, Metrobank is reshaping its growth strategy, choosing to focus on its strengths particularly in deepening customer relationships, and targeted customer growth. "We have the support of more than 3 million customers who depend on us day after day for their banking needs. Very few institutions, financial or otherwise, can claim that they have partnered not only with most of the Top 1000 Corporations but also with various national and local government agencies, successfully maintaining these relationships through good times and bad. Clearly, Metrobank has the means to make things happen," said Ty.

Expanding its corporate, middle and consumer market

In line with market expansion, Ty disclosed that the bank is improving its marketing and sales capabilities to take advantage of new business opportunities and build on its customer base. "We are implementing changes to become market-focused and market-driven," Ty said.

"To better serve our medium to large corporate clients, we are making our cash management products more efficient for customers by using an online environment. We are repackaging our existing deposit products, and launching new ones to serve the needs of young, emerging, and the overseas Filipino worker markets," explained Ty.

Also, the Bank has been participating in sizeable and important deals with top-tier companies to broaden its loan portfolio, successfully signing multi-billion peso deals to fund the expansion of some of the Philippines' largest corporations through various loan facilities.

Global presence

The strength of Metrobank's franchise has long been associated with an expansive distribution network of over 800 international and domestic branches, offices, subsidiaries, and affiliates in Taiwan, Shanghai, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Guam, United States, Bahamas, and Europe. Only recently, the Bank opened its first remittance office in Canada.

Complementing its branches is a widely distributed network of over a thousand correspondent banks, numerous tie-ups and remittance partnerships worldwide. "We want to bolster the Metrobank brand overseas, and bring our products and services closer to Filipinos abroad," said the bank's president.

Superior reach

Aside from physical reach, the Bank is enhancing its electronic banking platform to allow customers greater and more convenient access to their accounts.

To date, it has invested heavily on hardware and sophisticated security features for its electronic banking channels, namely: the Metrobank E.T. automated teller machines (ATMs), Metrophone Banking, Metrobank Mobile Banking, and metrobank*direct* Internet banking facility for corporate and individual clients.

The Bank's ATM network has grown to over 700 onsite and offsite terminals nationwide, expanding offsite ATMs where clients are.

Its metrobank*direct* Internet banking facility has been providing inroads into corporate clients, including SMEs largely due to convenience and online, real time accessibility. Today's changing lifestyles and improved access to the Internet also account for the increase in e-Banking usage.

A commitment to shareholder value

As it placed emphasis on market expansion, the Bank continues to focus on stronger people development, better risk management, and building long-term shareholder value.

"This year ushers in a new era for the bank with the transition in leadership, the bank can become more aggressive and capable of moving in different directions while still being guided by the wisdom and lessons learned from long experience," Ty asserts.

"As we have in the past 44 years, we shall focus on building long-term value for our shareholders," Ty concludes. "Listening to our market and executing our strategies correctly will translate into gains for our shareholders; strengthen our balance sheet, earning potential and franchise. Ultimately, the objective is to secure our position as the industry leader for more years to come."

Indeed, with a franchise built on the trust and confidence of its stakeholders, Metrobank stands strong and ready to lead you to better times.

** "Youngest leading bank at 33" based on total assets of local commercial banks in the Philippines from 1976-2006 – Source BSP*

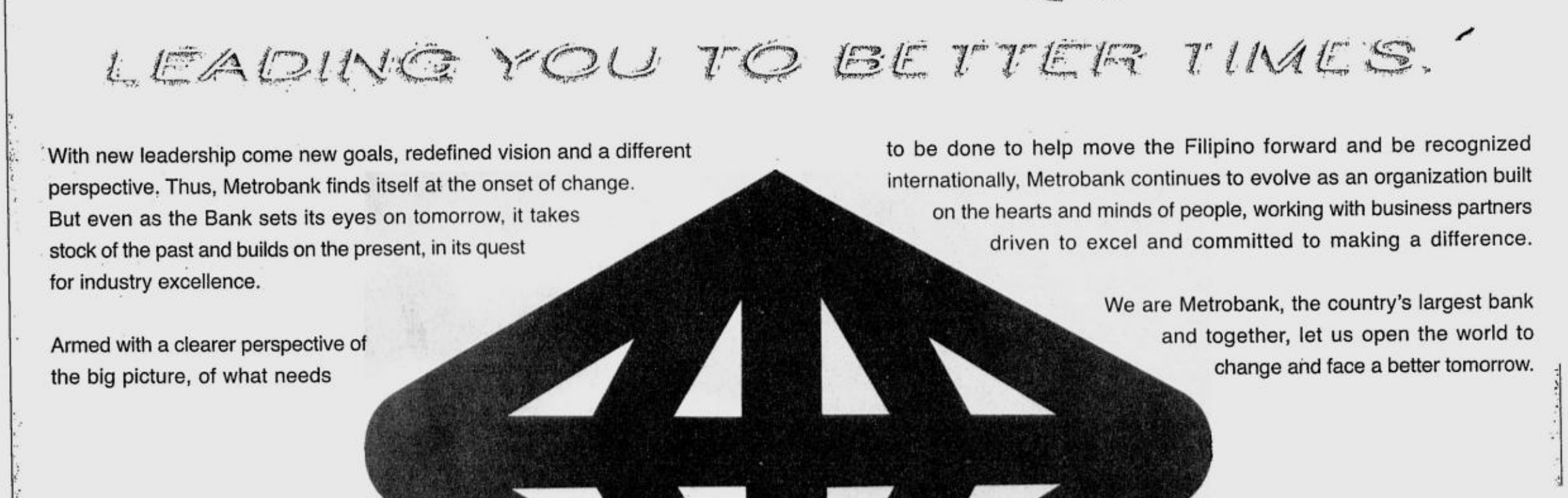
METROBANK 44

LEADING YOU TO BETTER TIMES.

With new leadership come new goals, redefined vision and a different perspective. Thus, Metrobank finds itself at the onset of change. But even as the Bank sets its eyes on tomorrow, it takes stock of the past and builds on the present, in its quest for industry excellence.

Armed with a clearer perspective of the big picture, of what needs to be done to help move the Filipino forward and be recognized internationally, Metrobank continues to evolve as an organization built on the hearts and minds of people, working with business partners driven to excel and committed to making a difference.

We are Metrobank, the country's largest bank and together, let us open the world to change and face a better tomorrow.



METROBANK 44 LEADI

Of Vision and Leadership

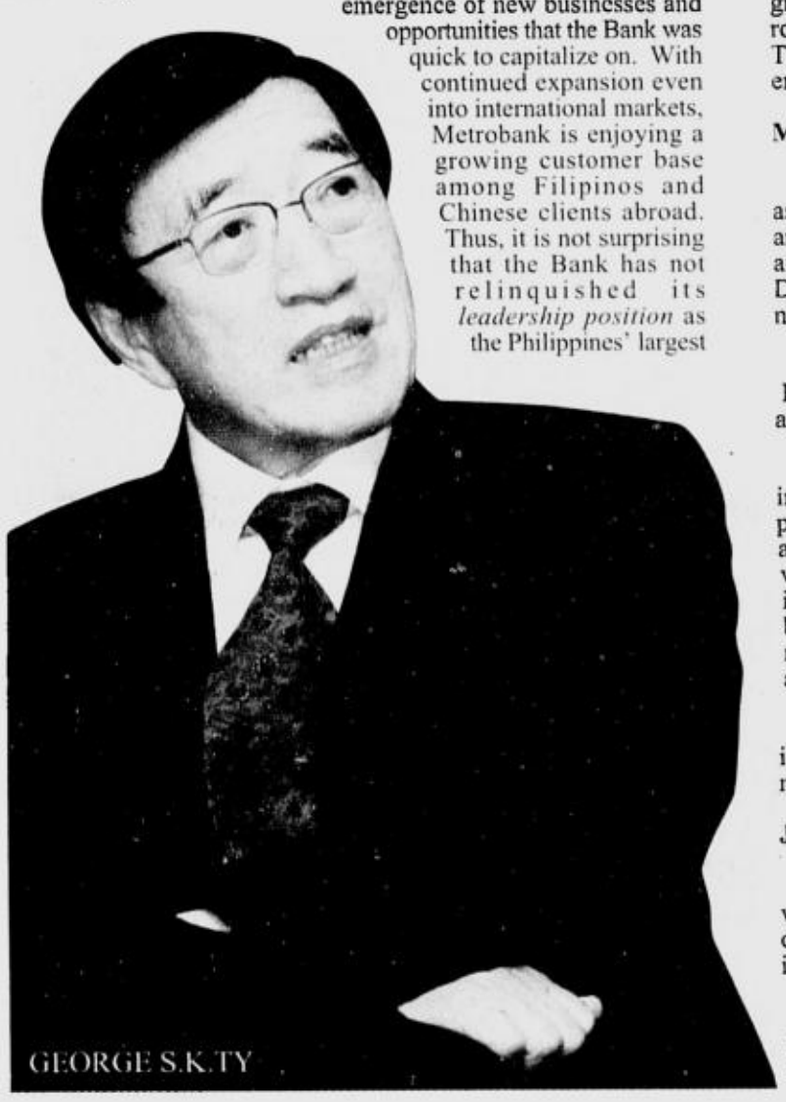
"Our greatest motivation for striving to be the best in the business field is the generation of more resources to share with society whose support is responsible for our success."

-GEORGE S.K.TY

When Dr. George S.K.Ty sets a vision, he leads his people to achieve it.

In 1962, he had a vision to put up a bank that would be the "biggest and the best in the Philippines". He envisioned the bank to adhere to the principle that any business worth doing should be done well. For the first ten years, he built the foundation of trust, cultivating the confidence of people and building valuable relationships with clients. The values of discipline and industry became part of the Metrobank culture. It was his hallmark that he passed on to the officers and staff, expecting nothing less than what he himself was giving.

More than three decades later, the name Metrobank is recognized in all corners of the country and easily associated with stability and growth. Traditionally, the Bank has served mid-sized companies and remote provinces that other banks once shunned. However, globalization and advances in technology saw the emergence of new businesses and opportunities that the Bank was quick to capitalize on. With continued expansion even into international markets, Metrobank is enjoying a growing customer base among Filipinos and Chinese clients abroad. Thus, it is not surprising that the Bank has not relinquished its *leadership position* as the Philippines' largest private commercial bank for 11 years now.


GEORGE S.K.TY

Dr. Ty credits the dedication and competence of the people of Metrobank for its success believing that attaining success also brings the obligation to maintain it.

Many have said that Dr. Ty has been successful not only in attracting established bankers but is also adept at spotting and attracting talent at an early stage. Quite a number have since joined government as high-ranking officials and other business enterprises, here and abroad, as top corporate officers. Metrobank has produced at least seven bank presidents. Filipino luminaries in banking and finance, Placido L. Mapa, Sr., Don Emilio Abello and Don Pio Pedrosa founded the bank with Dr. Ty and contributed their expertise to its early growth.

He takes pride in having developed people to assume greater responsibilities in the bank. Foremost among them was Metrobank group vice chairman and bank chairman Antonio S. Abacan Jr. who rose from the ranks and served the bank as president for 14 years. Ty places great emphasis on loyalty perhaps because he saw all his employees as part of one big family.

Metrobank Group Chairman

In May this year, Metrobank reached an important milestone as Dr. Ty stepped up to the Chairmanship of the Metrobank Group and passed on the torch to Antonio S. Abacan, Jr. as bank chairman and Metrobank Group vice chairman. The Metrobank Board of Directors also elected Arthur Ty as president to lead the Bank to new growth frontiers.

As group chairman, Dr. Ty is not one to sit on his laurels. He spearheads for the Metrobank companies, the effort to identify and address new business opportunities, especially abroad.

In August 2001, Metrobank established a full branch office in Shanghai, the only Philippine bank to do so. It was a small and preparatory step but a major move, nonetheless, in view of China as a fast-emerging world economic power. Consistent with his vision, Dr. Ty started constructing last year the Metrobank Plaza in Shanghai. This stately mix-use residential and commercial building towering over the city is the latest addition to Dr. Ty's multi-feathered cap. Nowadays, he busies himself with regular trips abroad looking for more opportunities for business and expansion.

Dr. Ty's ability "to perceive the development and implication of events long before they occur" is appreciated by many, especially among the key officers of the bank.

Joint Ventures

Metrobank prides itself on its roster of successful joint venture partners. Dr. Ty attributes this not only to the Bank's core competencies and its market reach but also to its reputation for integrity, discipline, and professionalism.

Toyota Motor Corp. and Mitsui & Co. have been joint venture partners for over 17 years with Metrobank in the Philippines' number one automotive company.

The Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ) partnered with Metrobank for its credit card business. The AXA Group is a partner in Philippine AXA Life Insurance Corp. while Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and Orix Corp. of Japan, are likewise partners of Metrobank in the financial services businesses. First Metro Travelex, Inc, is a joint venture with Travelex plc.

Because of Metrobank's good fundamentals and harmonious work ethic, partnerships with the world's renowned companies in their respective industries endure.

Giving Back to Society

Armed with the belief that "leadership in business implies leadership in community service as well," Dr. Ty established the Metrobank Foundation in 1979 and successfully "laid the groundwork for an ideal future by promoting excellence in such fields as teaching, health, and the visual arts."

Today, Metrobank Foundation is the largest philanthropic organization in the country in terms of operational budget and the immeasurable benefits granted over the past 27 years to the awardees of its major projects. The Search for Outstanding Teachers, The College Scholarship Programs, The Young Painters' Annual, now the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence National Competition, The Search for the Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service, and The Search for The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers.

In effect, the institution has created a fertile base that supports and encourages people to excel in their chosen fields. Be they teachers, students, artists and designers, policemen, soldiers and even members of the judiciary, Metrobank shares the fruits of its labor to help cultivate a culture of excellence in society.

A legacy of leadership and excellence

Going by the dictum that "success is measured not merely by the leadership position we have achieved but by the various obstacles we have surmounted," Dr. Ty knows only too well how the Bank struggled from its early beginnings to eventually grow by leaps and bounds, emerging as a true leader.

If he had a passion for work, he too had compassion for his people in the sense that the bigger the organization gets, the more it became necessary to stress fully the individual roles that each play to achieve and maintain harmony.

As he took care of his employees, Dr. Ty has kept a watchful eye on his clients by exercising prudence and good management discipline. With a growing customer base now numbering more than 3 million, Metrobank remains steadfast in its commitment to leadership and excellence for all of its stakeholders.

Suffice it to say then that the slogan, "You're in good hands with Metrobank," is no empty boast – the bank's clients attest to that.

Nurturing client relationships for 44 years

It's no secret that Metrobank wants to be the best bank for its customers and the rest of its stakeholders. Keeping its millions of customers happy and satisfied is a daunting task that Metrobank president Arthur Ty knows only too well. "We are strengthening our customer service capabilities in branches since they open the doors to our customers everyday and have face-to-face encounters."

With forty-four years behind it, clients are not ready to move their business somewhere else. In fact, one of the major events throughout the Bank's month-long anniversary celebration is the 20-year client recognition rites. It is a fitting tribute to all clients for their continued partnership with the bank for at least 20 years. The recognition rites started in 1982 and have not stopped since.

"The list of our 20-year clients gets longer every year. It is a testament of our enduring partnership with our customers and serves as an important reminder for us to keep nurturing our relationships with them. We are deeply grateful for the trust and confidence given by our clients," expressed Metrobank chairman Antonio S. Abacan, Jr.

Abacan shares that the key to the Bank's long-standing relationship with clients is understanding their preferences. "We believe in knowing our customers well so we can understand their needs. Our branch front liners including branch heads are trained to effectively assess clients' banking requirements," he says.

"We just don't offer customers bank products. Our people allot time for consultations and person-to-person interviews with clients. So even if we are the largest bank, we are able to maintain our personalized brand of service," assures Abacan.

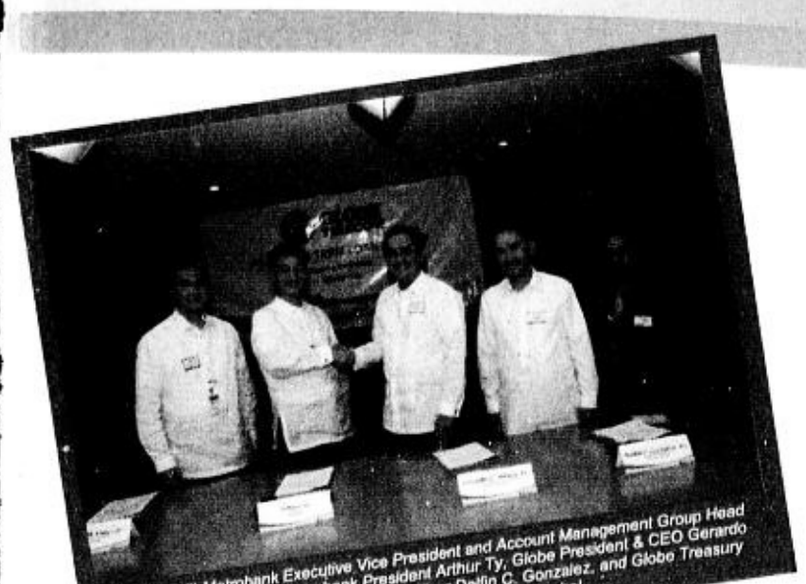
He adds, "Knowing our customers is also important in developing the right products and services for them. Metrobank clients come from different market segments, young and old, and we have to tailor-fit our products to their varying needs."

Corporate clients are no exception to this unique brand of personalized service. Metrobank account officers make it a point to familiarize themselves with the details of their clients' business operations. "Personalized service involves immersing ourselves in our clients' businesses to fully appreciate the different aspects of their trade. In that way, we can effectively identify how we can provide support and offer the right solutions – be it loans, investments, or cash management," says Abacan.

Metrobank believes that nurturing clients involves long-term relationships. "The service does not end with the granting of a housing or car loan, sealing an agreement for a term loan or selling traditional bank products," says Abacan. The bank's unique brand of service includes provision for follow-throughs and regular communication with clients. "Our fulfillment lies in seeing our client's business grow and knowing that we've been a part of that growth," he adds.

The market will constantly change and the bank will continue to adapt and evolve. "Despite these transformations and transitions, Metrobank's valued clients will continue to receive the personalized treatment they are used to receiving," assures Abacan.

NG YOU TO BETTER TIMES.



(From left) Metrobank Executive Vice President and Account Management Group Head Vicente R. Cuna, Jr., Metrobank President Arthur Ty, Globe President & CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr., Globe Chief Financial Officer Delfin C. Gonzalez, and Globe Treasury Division Head Alberto M. de Larrazabal.

(From left) Metrobank Trust Banking Group head and executive vice president Josefina E. Sulit, Metrobank Trust Banking Group deputy head and senior vice president Rafael G. Ayuste, Metrobank President Arthur Ty, SM Prime Holdings, Inc. President Hans T. Sy, SMPHI Senior Vice President Jose T. Sio and First Metro Investment Corp. President and Metrobank Vice Chairman Francis C. Sebastian.

(From Left) Metrobank President Arthur Ty, Chairman Antonio S. Abacan, Jr., Smart Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan, President and CEO Napoleon Nazareno.

Metrobank signs major deals to fund business expansion

Even with the reported weak loan growth in the financial services industry during the first half of the year, Metrobank, the country's largest lender remains at the forefront of lending activities to large corporate accounts in line with its new growth strategy to strengthen its corporate loans portfolio.

Already this year, Metrobank has signed a facility agreement for the issuance of ₱3 billion worth of SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SM Prime) Floating Rate Notes (FRN), and extended a ₱3 billion loan to Globe Telecom (Globe) as well as a ₱5 billion loan to Smart Communications (Smart).

Metrobank, the country's largest lender remains at the forefront of lending activities to large corporate accounts.

The SM Prime ₱3 billion FRN was funded solely by Metrobank with First Metro Investment Corporation acting as the Arranger. It was the largest fund raising of its nature in the Philippine debt market in years. "This is the first complete, major underwriting by the Metrobank Group for the SM Group," said SM Prime president Hans T. Sy. SM Prime is the country's leading shopping mall developer and operator, and is part of the SM Group, one of the Philippines' largest conglomerates operating in retail merchandising, shopping and entertainment malls, financial services, real estate, and tourism.

The Bank also extended a ₱3 billion five-year term loan facility to finance Globe's capital expenditures and regular working capital requirements. Loan proceeds are to be used for the roll out of infrastructure for its third-generation (3G) network, as well as for the broadband infrastructure of its wireline business. "In this business, you never see the end of expansion," Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr., Globe president and CEO said. "Metrobank understands our needs and they are able to provide us financing under competitive terms. That is what makes this partnership noteworthy."

Wireless service provider Smart Communications has also secured from Metrobank a ₱5 billion, five year multi-currency term loan that will partially finance its capital expenditure requirements. "The strength of our partnership with Metrobank has proven itself over the years. Indeed, the list of Metrobank's businesses with Smart is growing. The bank supports us with cash management services, trustee services for various Smart accounts, and participation in the 2014 Smart debt," Smart president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno said. Smart reported that the loan will be used to support its network upgrade and expansion.

Metrobank has been a crucial partner in building up the telecoms companies' capacity to address customer needs via network development and expansion for several years. Expansion of cellular network and mobile technology allows customers access to improved services such as third-generation (3G) technology, wireless broadband and other upgrades.

The recent large loan agreements are a testament to the Metrobank Group's capabilities as the country's leading financial institution, as well as its commitment to support business expansion and economic growth in the Philippines.

Metrobank remains the industry's largest lender with ₱277.9 billion in consolidated net loans and receivables as of June 30, 2006.

Metrobank continues to expand reach – locally and globally

In aspiring to be the best financial institution in the country, Metrobank is in constant pursuit of growth. Even after having achieved the prime position as the country's largest bank, there is no stopping the bank from extending its reach to customers in the Philippines and abroad.

"Very few banks can say that they are present in practically every corner of this country," says Metrobank president Arthur Ty. Metrobank's domestic network is composed of 557 branches all over the archipelago. The bank has 317 branches in Metro Manila, 115 in Luzon, 73 in the Visayas, and 52 in Mindanao. Its subsidiary Philippine Savings Bank has 150 branches.

The bank's automated teller machine (ATM) network is equally impressive. There are now over 700 in-branch and off-site Metrobank ATMs throughout the country. These ATMs have recently been enhanced with a Windows-based operating system that allows the machines to run video screens making them more interactive and user friendly. Metrobank is also a member of BancNet - an association of banks that has a network of over 2,000 ATMs.

Information and communication technology advancement has provided significant inroads in improving service delivery in branches. All Metrobank branches operate online and the bank's IT infrastructure has allowed it to set up branches or ATM facilities even in remote areas or provinces. To further bolster this domestic scope, the bank is now exploring tie-ups with rural banks.

Alongside Metrobank's local expansion is its aggressive foray into the global arena. Buoyed by the continued growth potential of overseas remittance inflows, the bank has reorganized its international operations to promote better focus and capitalize on available opportunities.

"Metrobank has placed high priority in strengthening the marketing and distribution capabilities of its international offices and subsidiaries in line with our growth strategy," said Metrobank senior vice president Carmelita R. Araneta, head of the International Offices and Subsidiaries Group.

"We have been exploring further tie-ups with foreign remittance companies and evaluating international branch locations to enhance market coverage. We intend to maintain our lion's share of the remittance market through more aggressive marketing, sales and service efforts," said Araneta. During the first half of 2006, total transactions coursed through Metrobank's international channels amounted to US$1.4 billion.

Metrobank has 69 international branches, remittance offices, partnerships, and tie-ups in the Middle East (27), Asia Pacific (20), Europe (10), and in the United States (12). The bank is present in key cities in Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Shanghai in the Asia Pacific region.

The bank also enjoys strong presence in Europe with remittance offices in London, Rome, Milan, Bologna, Madrid, Barcelona, and Vienna. In the US, Metrobank is present in New York, Hawaii, New Jersey, Chicago, and the Bahamas. Most recently, it opened its first remittance office in Canada. It has established partnerships with over 1,000 correspondent banks worldwide.

Metrobank's domestic and international push is in line with its strategy of strengthening the bank's marketing and sales capabilities to grow its customer base. "We aim to maximize the full potential of our extensive branch network and international offices. We are expanding our coverage of corporate, middle and consumer markets, and in particular, the overseas Filipino market," said Ty.

"We are working on expanding our product offerings in our international offices so that Filipinos abroad can also avail of Metrobank's unique products and services. If a Filipino abroad wants to buy a house in the Philippines for his family, Metrobank should be able to address that financing need and make loan amortization payments easy and convenient to do through any of our international offices or remittance partners abroad," explained Ty.

"To the extent possible, we want to give our clients abroad the opportunity to avail of our financial products and services that we are offering locally. Therefore, transactions need not be confined to remittance services alone," concludes Ty.

Malayo man sa isa't isa, lagi Kayong naaalala.

METROBANK SUPERBILIS PADALA

SUPER FAST!

Online ang remittance kung galing sa aming foreign branch or office. Pwedeng ma-credit sa loob lang ng ilang sandali. At hanggang 24 oras naman kung dumaan sa aming remittance partners. May text alert pa kung dumating na ang pera.

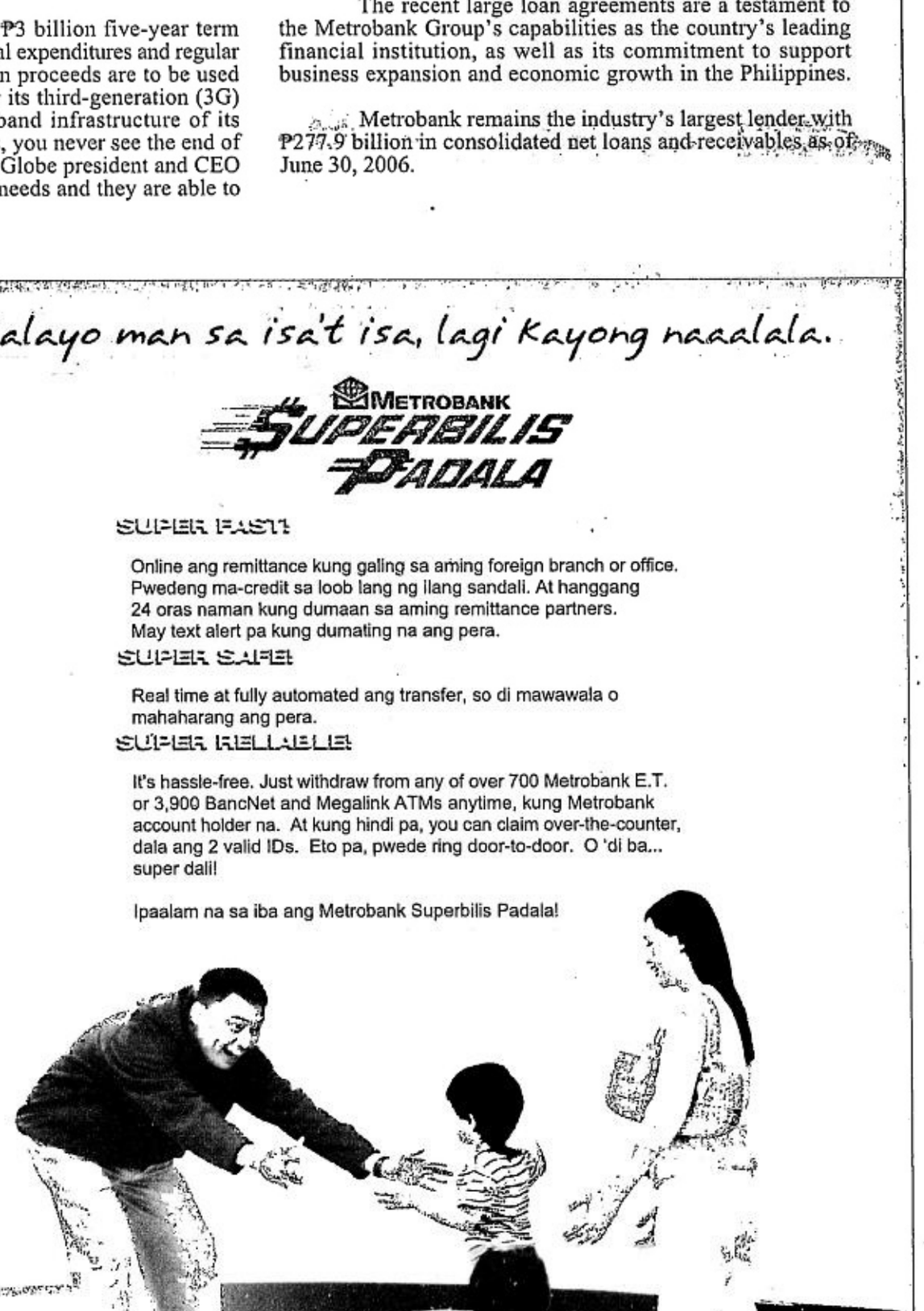
SUPER SAFE!

Real time at fully automated ang transfer, so di mawawala o mahaharang ang pera.

SUPER RELIABLE!

It's hassle-free. Just withdraw from any of over 700 Metrobank E.T. or 3,900 BancNet and Megalink ATMs anytime, kung Metrobank account holder na. At kung hindi pa, you can claim over-the-counter, dala ang 2 valid IDs. Eto pa, pwede ring door-to-door. O 'di ba... super dali!

Ipaalam na sa iba ang Metrobank Superbilis Padala!



Philippines

You're in good hands with METROBANK

Over 800 domestic and international branches, offices and subsidiaries.
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A proud member of BancNet

METROBANK 44

The Metrobank Group - Leadership Beyond Banking

The Metrobank Group is a true Filipino conglomerate with diverse interests in the area of financial services, life and non-life insurance, power generation, real estate, automotive industry and travel.

A look at the domestic and international subsidiaries and affiliates that make up the Metrobank Group of Companies show that the Group's culture of leadership and excellence is not only limited to banking, but is a total commitment that permeates through the entire organization and to the respective industries in which they belong.

PSBank, a Metrobank subsidiary, is the country's second largest savings bank in terms of assets, with total resources amounting to ₱55.1 billion and over 150 branches nationwide.

Investment banking subsidiary First Metro Investment Corporation is a leading and respected financial institution that has sustained local market dominance and has won numerous awards from prestigious regional financial publications, while First Metro Securities Brokerage Corporation is a licensed stockbrokerage house that ranks in the top tier of the 130 active brokers in the PSE in terms of value turnover.

The Metrobank Group has partnered with the most respected financial institutions worldwide to continuously improve its performance and service to stakeholders. Philippine AXA Life Insurance Corporation is a joint venture with the Global AXA Group and is one of the top life insurance companies in the country. ORIX Metro Leasing and Finance Corporation, a joint venture with ORIX Corporation of Japan, has sustained its growth in terms of resources and income, while Metrobank Card Corporation, a joint venture of Metrobank with Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. (ANZ) is one of the fastest growing card companies today.

Offering more than just financial services, the Group boasts of another leader with Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP), the country's top performer in over-all, passenger car and commercial vehicle sales for more than four straight years. As the undisputed industry leader, TMP holds a huge 37% share of the market. Two of the top Toyota dealerships in the country, Toyota Manila Bay Corporation and Toyota Cubao, Inc. both belong to the Metrobank Group.

The Group also has interests in the power sector through Global Business Power Corporation, a major provider of stable electricity supply to the key cities of Cebu and Iloilo.

Other local subsidiaries include: the SMBC Metro Investment Corporation, a joint venture with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation; Philippine Charter Insurance Corporation; First Metro Travelex, Inc., a joint venture with Travelex plc; and technology service provider MBTC Technology, Inc.

Internationally, the Metrobank Group is a major player in the overseas remittance business, with remittance centers in Hong Kong, Singapore, the US, the Bahamas, Italy, UK, Madrid, Barcelona and Vienna. The Group's international subsidiaries also includes the First Metro International Investment Co., LTD.

With 44 years of excellence behind it, the Metrobank Group looks forward to the future with an unwavering commitment to provide long-term value to all its stakeholders.

FIRST METRO INVESTMENT CORPORATION
A METROBANK Subsidiary

TOYOTA

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

Metrobank Card Corporation
A joint venture of METROBANK and ANZ

AXA
PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

GBP
Global Business Power Corporation

ORIX
ORIX METRO
Leasing and Finance Corporation
The Strength to Lead

PhilCharter
Philippine Charter Insurance Corporation
MEMBER: METROBANK GROUP

SMBC METRO INVESTMENT CORPORATION
An affiliate of Metrobank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

Travelex
Travel Services

TOYOTA CUBAO, INC.
1996, 1997, 1998 & 1999 Dealer of the Year

TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORPORATION
TMBC

TOYOTA
FINANCIAL SERVICES

METRO / A20

BIR accuses ABS-CBN's Charo Santos-Concio of violating tax laws

SPORTS / A23

European champ Greece ousts US in World basketball championship

BUSINESS / B1

BSP survey says firms less optimistic; confidence level expected to pick up in 4th quarter

METRO/ A20

Pasay mayor, 10 councilors suspended

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
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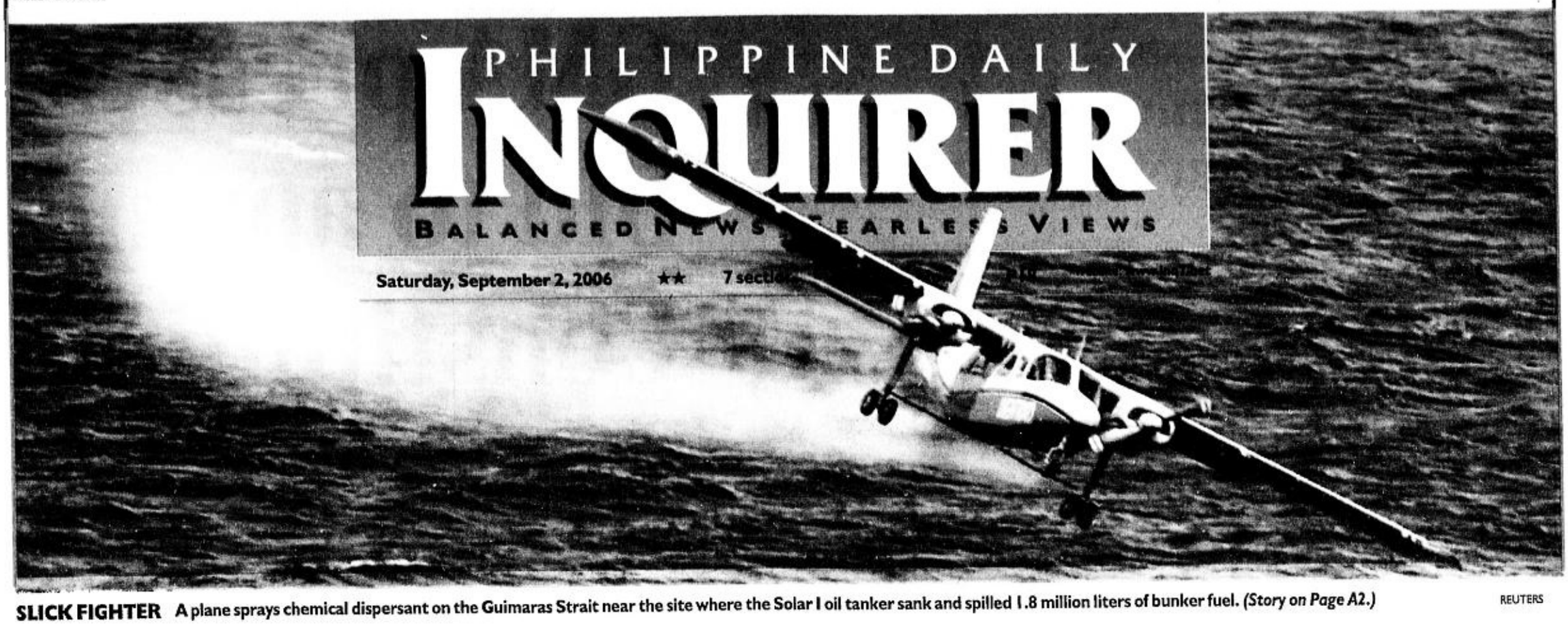
Saturday, September 2, 2006 ★★ 7 sections



SLICK FIGHTER A plane sprays chemical dispersant on the Guimaras Strait near the site where the Solar I oil tanker sank and spilled 1.8 million liters of bunker fuel. *(Story on Page A2.)* REUTERS

'Breach' sets off alarm

Apostol dares media: Be a disturbing presence

By Fe B. Zamora

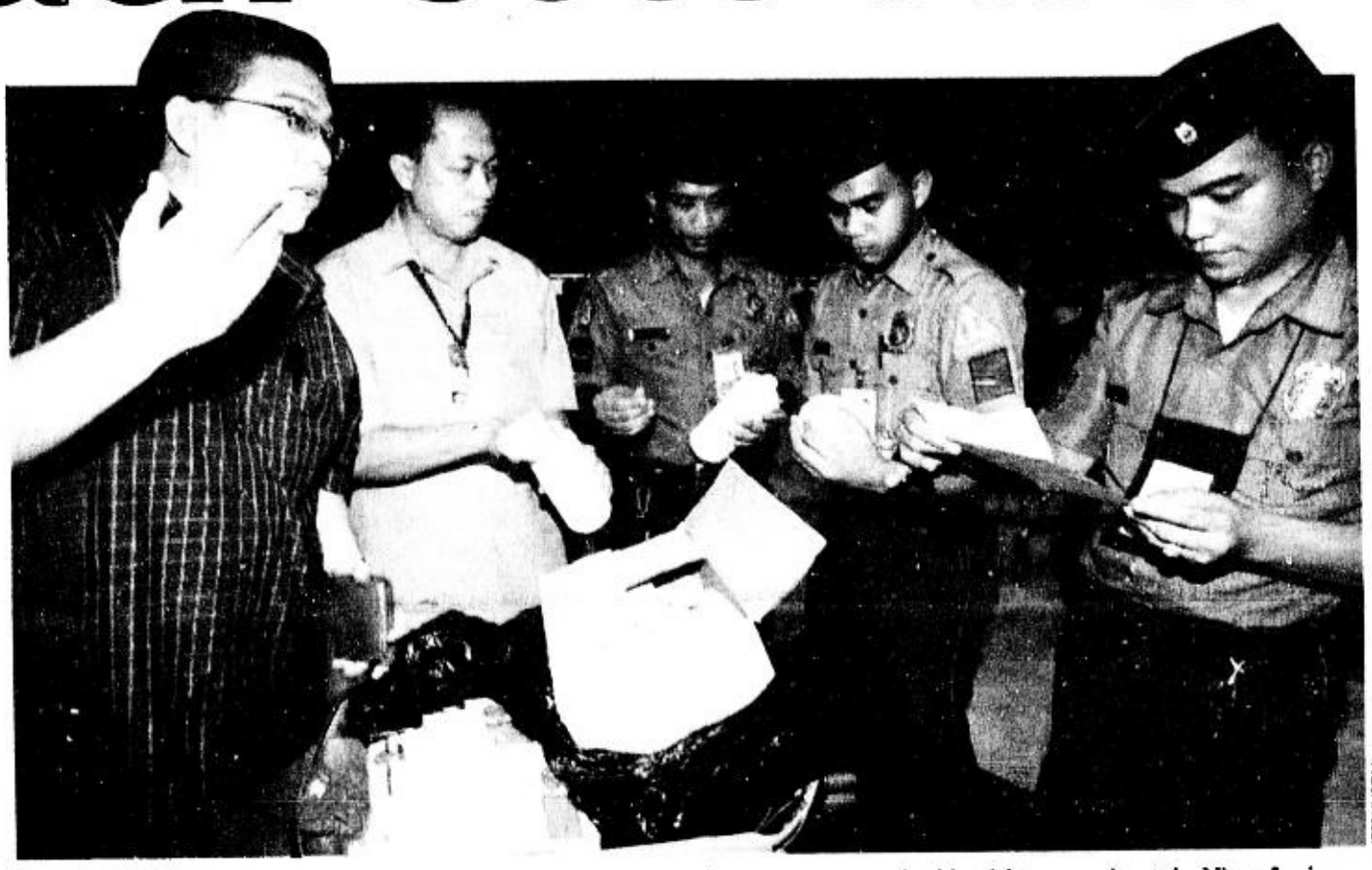
BE A DISTURBING PRESENCE.

This was the challenge that Eugenia Duran-Apostol, the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay awardee for journalism, literature and creative communication arts, issued to an audience of would-be journalists.

"If you are angry enough, you can do something about [the situation]. You should even be ready to die, if you love your country," said Apostol, the founding chair of the INQUIRER, who spoke on "Building Credible Media: Lessons from the Frontlines" yesterday.

Apostol, 82, knows what she is talking about when she urges media to be a dis-

APOSTOL/ A10



JESS YUSON

AIRPORT security personnel go through the hand luggage of an outgoing passenger as authorities tighten security at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in reaction to an INQUIRER report of a "suicide bomber" who sneaked a bomb onto a domestic flight recently.

Airport execs jolted by 'bomb on plane' caper

By Nikko Dizon

AN APPARENT SECURITY breach that enabled an unnamed passenger to smuggle bomb components into two Philippine domestic flights set off alarm bells yesterday and prompted calls for stronger measures to protect the country's airports from terror attacks.

"We are cracking our heads to find out what else is missing in our security measures, which we may have to revisit to ensure a safe air travel for our passengers," Office for Transportation Security chief Cecilio Penilla said.

Officials described the covert security exercise as both "an eye-opener" and a "wake-up call" for security officials and agencies involved in protecting the country's transportation industry, especially the airports.

The security scramble was prompted by an INQUIRER story about how an antiterrorism expert was able to sneak bomb materials onto a Manila-to-Davao flight on Aug. 14 without being detected by airport security people. He carried out the same operation on his return flight from Davao to Manila the same day.

The expert claimed he was able to assemble on the plane the bomb components, which he had hidden in his jacket, shoulder bag, belt and shoes.

The man, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of his work, said he was assigned to carry out the clandestine operation by a government official.

The aim was to test the adequacy of

BREACH/ A6

'Expert played with people's lives'

By Nikko Dizon and Christine O. Avendaño

OFFICIALS YESTERDAY DENOUNCED the antiterrorism expert who said he sneaked bomb components into domestic flights as part of a security test for playing with the lives of people, and warned he could be criminally liable.

"Whether these were real explosives or not, whoever conducted the test had endangered the flight, the lives of the passengers and the crew," Alfonso Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), said at a press conference.

Undersecretary Cecilio Penilla, chief of the Office of the Transportation Security (OTS), said, "*Pinaglalaruan nila ang buhay ng mga tao* (They played with the lives of people)."

The officials said that the expert, who gave the story on condition he not be identified because he is involved in security work, could be held liable if he used real explosives during his test.

Cusi said that the International Civil Aviation Organization (Icao) dictated that only dummy materials should be

EXPERT/ A6

Confession website offers no absolution

ON A WEBSITE CALLED MYSEcret.tv, there is the writer who was molested years ago by her baby-sitter and who still cannot forgive herself for failing to protect her younger siblings from the same abuse.

There is the happy father, busi-

CONFESSION/ A8

Gov't hospitals gaining acceptance–SWS

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS WHO PREfer government hospitals over private institutions is growing, according to the Department of Health, citing results of the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

Affordability was the main reason 67 percent of respondents chose government hospitals while only 15 percent chose private medical centers, the DOH said, quoting the survey conducted in June.

In a similar SWS survey conducted in August last year, 62 percent preferred public hospitals while 20 percent preferred private institutions.

"This development is a significant departure from the past when most [people] had always chosen to go to private medical facilities rather than to government hospitals," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said in a statement.

"But now, they seem to already regard both hospitals at par with each other," he said.

There were many reasons cited by those who chose government hospitals in the June survey, the main one being affordability (72 percent). Other reasons listed were: "accessibility, excellent ser-

GOV'T HOSPITALS/ A6

Tycoons join hands to save RP education

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DISMAL. THE WORD BEST DESCRIBES the state of the Philippine education system today.

Consider the latest statistics from the Department of Education presented yesterday in a forum by former Education Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz:

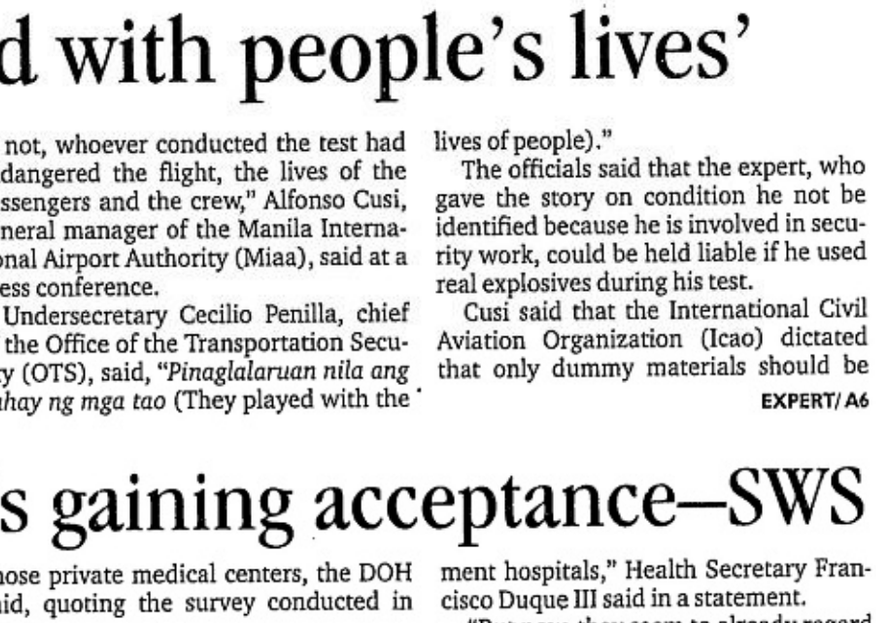
- Over 97 percent of high school students failed in the latest National Achievement Test (NAT).
- Only three out of five students who enter Grade 1 will finish Grade 6.
- Only two out of five will finish high school.
- Only one of 10 will finish college.

It gets worse. Seven out of 10 teachers who teach physics in high school are not trained on the subject. According to recent tests, the teachers handling higher elementary grades and high school have the competency to teach only Grade 4 subjects.

Then there's the perennial problem of shortage of 42,000 teachers and 4 million desks and chairs nationwide, mainly in the public education system.

There is overcrowding in public high schools. For instance, there are only 206 high schools in the National Capital Region and 39 run more than one shift. The school in the Batasang Pambansa area

TYCOONS/ A8



KILLING FIELDS
Forensic experts sort out the skeletal remains of what are reported to be victims of a communist purge in Inopacan, Leyte. ***(Stories and other photos on Page A8)***

AFP HANDOUT PHOTO

'Montessori school' of beggars busted

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THIS IS A SCHOOL FOR CHARITY LIKE no other.

On any given day, young "scholars" from the Emmanuel Montessori College of Charity can be seen making the rounds of malls and school campuses, carrying tin cans that say, "Support Our Children's Programs ...*Sa Baryang Ibinigay Mo, Karugtong ng Buhay*" (each centavo you give will save a life).

At the end of this singular education in fund-raising, the scholars ostensibly earn degrees in nursing, information technology and hotel and restaurant

MONTESSORI/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Mindanao and Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/01/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Catapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

IF THERE'S STILL A SENATE

Opposition figures top list of bets for senator, says Pulse Asia poll

LOREN LEGARDA, THE FORMER SENAtor and defeated vice presidential candidate, topped the list of candidates for senator chosen by respondents in the most recent Pulse Asia survey.

Most of the other names in the top 12 that respondents said they would vote for if elections were held today, were identified with the opposition, Pulse Asia said in its July 2006 Ulat ng Bayan national survey on senatorial preferences.

Pulse Asia said the May 2007 election has become "an even more crucial political exercise" after the Commission on Elections junked the petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution, thereby lessening the likelihood of Charter change happening before 2007. The proposed amendments would have abolished the Senate.

The respondents were presented a list of 65 names of likely senatorial candidates and were asked the question: "Should the 2007 elections be held today, whom among the following personalities would you vote for, if ever they run for senator?" The respondents were asked to choose a maximum of 12 names.

Legarda topped the list with 48.6 percent. She was followed by four senators, Francis Pangilinan (39 percent), Panfilo Lacson (34.9 percent), Manuel Villar Jr. (34.2 percent) and Ralph Recto (33.1 percent).

Also within the "winning circle of 12 senators" were former senator Vicente Sotto (31 percent), lawyer Aquilino Pimentel III (29.9 percent), Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano (29.5 percent), former senator Gregorio Honasan (27.7 percent), San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito (23.8 percent), Rep. Imee Marcos (23.1 percent) and former senator John Osmeña (22.7 percent).

But considering the survey's margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points, eight others could be "probable senatorial candidates [with] a statistical chance of winning," said Pulse Asia.

They are Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III (21.8 percent), Sen. Luisa Estrada (21.7 percent), Sen. Joker Arroyo (21 percent), Sen. Edgardo Angara (20.9 percent), Rep. Francis Escudero (20.2 percent), former senator Francisco Tatad (18.9 percent), Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor (18.7 percent) and Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon (18.5 percent).

The survey was carried out from June 24 to July 8 using face-to-face interviews with a "multistage" probability sample of 1,200 representative adults aged 18 years and above.

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

2007 Elections: Senatorial Preferences
June 24 to July 8, 2006

	Aware	Voting for	Rank
Legarda, Loren	87	48.6	1
Pangilinan, Francis "Kiko"	99	39	2-4
Lacson, Panfilo "Ping"	100	34.9	2-7
Villar, Manuel "Manny" Jr.	99	34.2	2-8
Recto, Ralph	98	33.1	3-8
Sotto, Vicente "Tito" III	82	31	3-9
Pimentel, Aquilino "Koko" III	76	29.9	3-9
Cayetano, Alan Peter	67	29.5	4-9
Honasan, Gregorio "Gringo"	89	27.7	6-11
Ejercito-Estrada, JV	84	23.8	9-17
Marcos, Imee	83	23.1	9-20
Osmena, John Henry	77	22.7	10-20
Aquino, Benigno "Noynoy" III	80	21.8	10-22
Estrada, Luisa "Loi"	100	21.7	10-22
Arroyo, Joker	100	21	10-24
Angara, Edgardo "Ed"	99	20.9	10-24
Escudero, Francis "Chiz"	93	20.2	10-25
Tatad, Francisco "Kit"	75	18.9	11-26
Defensor, Michael "Mike"	98	18.7	11-26
Biazon, Rozzano Rufino "Ruffy"	61	18.5	11-26
Barbers, Robert Ace	73	17.7	13-26
Atienza, Jose "Lito" Jr.	72	17.7	13-26
Fallon, Ted	74	16.8	15-27
Puno, Ricardo "Dong"	72	16.6	15-28
Mercado, Orlando "Orly"	77	16.1	17-28
Remulla, Gilbert	89	15	18-30
Fernando, Bayani "BF"	74	13.2	23-32
Herrera, Ernesto "Boy"	65	12.6	24-33
Davide, Hilario Jr.	70	12.1	26-33
Roco, Sonia	45	11.6	26-33
Gonzalez, Raul	94	11	27-34
Binay, Jejomar "Jojo"	56	9.6	27-37
Aquino-Oreta, Teresa "Tessie"	74	9.2	28-38
Enriquez, Miguel "Mike"	70	7.9	31-43
Ocampo, Satur	90	7.1	32-45
Golez, Rollo	55	6.9	32-46
Rasul, Amina	57	6.8	32-48
Clavio, Arnold "Igan"	58	6.1	33-49
Arroyo, Juan Miguel "Mikey"	80	6	34-49
Soliman, Corazon "Dinky"	58	5.8	34-50

Source: Pulse Asia

Questions:
(1) Kung ang nasabing halalan sa 2007 ay isasagawa ngayon, sinu-sino sa mga sumusunod na personalidad ang inyong iboboto kungsakaling sila ay kakandidato sa pagka-senador?
(2) May nabasa o narining na ba kayo ng kahit na ano tungkol sa mga sumusunod kahit na kailan?

GMA presses bid to amend Constitution

By Christine O. Avendaño

A DAY AFTER THE COMMISsion on Elections thrashed the petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday took it upon herself to push her campaign for Charter change.

Addressing the 18th national convention of the Philippine Transport and General Workers Organization (PGTWO), the President sought and eventually got its support for the amendment of the 1987 Constitution.

Ms Arroyo said she was pleased that just as the PGTWO recognized the need to change its own charter, it also saw the need to change the Constitution.

"And I'm expecting the support of PGTWO in changing the Constitution," the President told participants of the convention held at the Occupational Safety and Health Center in Quezon City.

The President was handed by the group's leaders a copy of its board resolution "declaring support for Charter change."

The resolution directed the PGTWO leaders to "build links with like-minded labor and civil society organizations in the advocacy for Charter change and in defining specific amendment proposals coherent with PGTWO vision and mission."

In her speech, Ms Arroyo assured that the government would continue to pursue its development programs so that Filipinos would no longer have to work abroad so they could meet the needs of their families.

She appealed to labor unions, nongovernmental organizations and people's organizations to push for political reforms in order to spur the economy and create more jobs.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Palace was confident that "our Constitutionally mandated institutions and the true voice of the people will prevail."

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance that we must not miss as a nation and as a people out to break from the past and to face a brave new world," Bunye said in a statement.

But the multisectoral group OneVoice yesterday said it was ready for its "Round 2" bout at the Supreme Court to oppose moves to amend the Charter through people's initiative, which is being pushed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. told reporters yesterday Sigaw had no other resort but to go to the Supreme Court.

OneVoice lead convenor Christian Monsod said that once Sigaw appeals the Comelec decision before the Supreme Court, OneVoice was also prepared to submit an opposition.

For Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, "Cha-cha is not dead."

He said the President's allies would go on a twin effort of getting the Supreme Court to reverse its 1997 ruling requiring an enabling law for people's initiative and also push for a constitutional assembly initiative in Congress to amend the Charter.

"Either way, Charter change will push through," Gonzalez said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

In other developments:

- The Senate would "work hard" to pass a law to cover a people's initiative after the Comelec junked the petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution in the absence of an enabling law, Sen. Richard Gordon said yesterday.
- Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday declared that the fight isn't over yet as he tried to boast the morale of Charter change proponents. "The ball is now in the Supreme Court," he said. *With reports from Jerome Aning, Armand N. Nocum, TJ Burgonio and Mike Lim Ubac*

Gov't to overhaul shipping rules in wake of oil spill

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

THE GOVERNMENT WILL OVERHAUL ITS shipping rules following the country's worst ever oil spill, a senior official said yesterday.

Compulsory use of double-hulled oil tankers, restricted shipping lanes and a ban on tankers making port calls in densely populated areas and passing through marine reserves are some of the measures under consideration.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, head of the government's task force looking into the disaster, said all domestic tankers carrying oil in Philippine waters would be required to have double hulls by 2008.

He said a full overhaul of shipping rules was needed to prevent another spill similar to the one that happened off the coast of central Guimaras island three weeks ago, adding that random inspections would be stepped up.

Oil tanker owners had asked that the deadline for compliance be moved to 2010, officials earlier said.

Marina Administrator Vicente Suazo Jr. said out of the 214 tankers in the country, 148 are operational at present. Of this number, 21 carry "black products" such as bunker fuel. Only one of these 21 local tankers has a double hull.

Meanwhile, the sunken oil tanker, which was found to have one of its cargo tanks open, continues to leak, according to the Coast Guard in Iloilo City, citing underwater video footages taken by a Japanese survey ship.

Capt. Luis Tuason Jr., Coast Guard commander in Western Visayas, yesterday said the leak was significantly much slower than in the days immediately following the sinking of MT Solar I last Aug. 11.

"There is still a very weak and slow leaking probably at five liters per hour," Tuason told the INQUIRER.

The Coast Guard previously estimated the oil coming out from the tanker at 2,000 liters per hour based on the oil slick in the water surface.

Tuason said the video footage showed that the hatch of Tanker Number 4, at the ship's left side, was already open. The compartment has a capacity of 274,690 liters.

This could mean that at least 275,000 liters of bunker have been spilled, said Tuason.

The Coast Guard official also said that there were indications that one of the cargo tanks (either Tanker Number 2 or 3) in the ships starboard (right) side was leaking.

The video also showed a crack in the right side past the middle part of the vessel and a hole in the left side near the bow.

Water could have entered the hole, which contributed to the sinking of the ship, said Tuason.

Other late-breaking developments:

- Captain Norberto Aguro, of the M/T Solar I would be suspended from his job pending the investigation of the sinking of his tanker, according to the Special Board of Marine Inquiry.
- SBMI chair Danilo Abinoja yesterday said there were three aspects that could have led to the sinking of the M/T Solar I: the stability of the vessel, the competency of the captain and force majeure (an unforeseeable and uncontrollable event).
- Abinoja also said that Petron would most likely be held liable for the oil spill, although he also pointed out that the oil company had already acknowledged that it would shoulder the costs of mitigating the incident's consequences.
- Petron distribution officer and marine safety manager Rolando Salonga said it was the responsibility of the owner of the M/T Solar I to see to it that the vessel was seaworthy. Salonga said it was the job of tanker owner Sunshine Maritime Development Corporation to ensure that the documentation of the vessel's crew members were in order, to prepare enough life saving equipment and to report the presence of extra people on board to the authorities.
- The Department of Labor and Employment would be sending a fact-finding team to Guimaras and the the Bicol Region to assess the how the calamities that struck both areas affected employment, livelihood and the health and safety of workers and their families there. Undersecretary for Employment Danilo Cruz said the team would confer with the local government units, particularly with barangay and municipal leaders to determine the present and future effects of the oil spill in Guimaras. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Leila B. Salaverria, Jerome Aning and AFP*

Mike A threatens to file more libel suits

THE FIRST GENTLEMAN threatened yesterday to sue more opposition lawmakers, a day after filing libel suits against a legislator who claimed the Arroyo family kept hundreds of millions of dollars in a German bank.

Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo filed 13 libel complaints demanding P30 million pesos in damages from Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano.

"And to the congressmen who believe and support Cayetano, Mr. Arroyo dared them to repeat their colleague's accusations outside Congress 'so I can sue you as well,'" a statement from his office said.

Cayetano first mentioned the alleged bank account during a debate last week on an impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo over accusations that include rigging the 2004 election, violating the Constitution, and corruption and human rights abuses.

Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing.

Lawyers for the Arroyo family said the lawsuits against Cayetano were prompted by statements he made outside Congress, when his legislative immunity would not apply.

Cayetano said the alleged bank account was only one of many pieces of evidence the opposition wasn't allowed to reveal because the President's congressional allies voted to throw out the impeachment complaint on a technicality.

Arroyo and Cayetano, both lawyers, accused each other of being a "coward" and a "bully."

"You are the coward, Mr. Cayetano, not me," the First Gentleman said in the statement. "You maliciously spread lies and fabricated evidence against me and my family without bothering to get our side."

Arroyo and his lawyers traveled to Germany last weekend and obtained certification from HypoVeirensbank in Munich that said he had no account with them and that the account numbers mentioned by Cayetano do not exist.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said there was nothing gentlemanly about Arroyo's filing of libel suits—28, as of last count—against political opponents who had raised issues against him.

Norman Bordadora and AP

PEACE BELL President Macapagal-Arroyo rings the bell to mark the third year of National Peace Consciousness Month at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City Friday. LYN RILLON

Sandiganbayan turns down Imelda bid to travel to HK

By Norman Bordadora and Tina Santos

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY REfused to give former First Lady Imelda Marcos permission to go to Hong Kong for medical treatment after she withdrew in March P630,000 in travel bonds she had posted to contribute to relief efforts in the aftermath of the Ginsaugon landslide.

The Sandiganbayan issued the decision a day after the widow of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos made a similar plea at a Manila court Thursday afternoon, saying she needed to travel to Hong Kong to seek alternative medicine treatment for her hips and knees problems.

The Sandiganbayan had earlier granted a similar request of Mrs. Marcos but she decided to postpone the trip after a landslide swamped Guinsaugon village in St. Bernard town, Southern Leyte in February.

Mrs. Marcos withdrew her bond on March 21, 2006, the Sandiganbayan cashier's office confirmed. She said she intended to donate the P630,000 to the survivors of, and the families of the hundreds who perished in, the landslide in Ginsaugon.

The court is expected to require Marcos to post a bond for the same amount if it is to allow her to travel abroad.

Mrs. Marcos, 77, is accused at the Sandiganbayan of putting in Swiss bank accounts millions of dollars in allegedly ill-gotten wealth under the names of several foundations.

She is also charged with violating the Constitution when she headed a foundation during the Marcos regime while serving as a Cabinet minister.

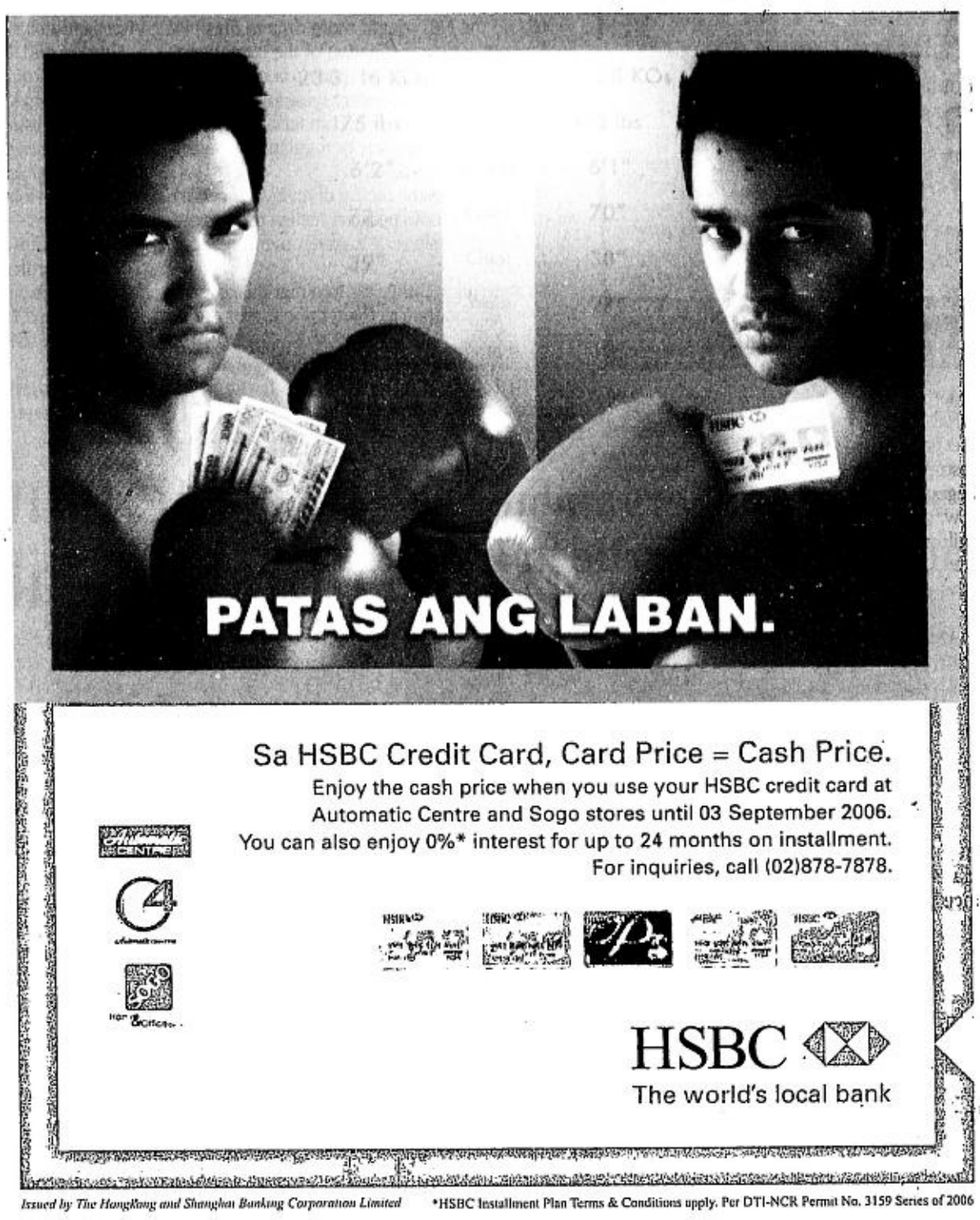
The day before, in an urgent motion for leave to travel abroad filed before Regional Trial Court Branch 26, Mrs. Marcos, through her lawyer Robert A. C. Sison, sought the court's permission after her doctor, Dr. Roalito Anastacio, advised her to undergo alternative medicine, which is widely practiced in Hong Kong.

Anastacio observed that Mrs. Marcos might have developed resistance to Western medicine such as antibiotics since she had been taking these for decades, Sison explained.

Mrs. Marcos asked the court to grant her 30 days—from Sept. 5 to Oct. 5—to travel and to consult a certain Dr. Yau Ting Fuk.

Mrs. Marcos faces a string of civil and criminal charges before the court in relation to her husband's $683 million Swiss bank deposits, and needs court permission to travel abroad.

Should her motion be approved, Mrs. Marcos will be required to post a travel bond of P320,000 or P10,000 for each of the 32 counts of alleged dollar-salting, in particular violations of Central Bank regulations, pending before the court.



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FINAL REPORT NEXT WEEK

NBI found more review centers linked to nursing scam, says Ermita

By Christine O. Avendano and TJ Burgonio

MORE THAN TWO REVIEW CENTERS IN Luzon were found by the National Bureau of Investigation to have benefited from the leaked test questions of the controversial 2006 Nursing Licensure Examination, a top Palace official said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, however, declined to name the review centers, saying the NBI had yet to issue its final report next week.

"I'm not at liberty to tell you right now," Ermita told reporters.

He said the NBI sought more time to finish its final report of its investigation of the controversy that marred the June 2006 nursing board exams.

Ermita and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that efforts were now being undertaken to find out if the country has a law or regulation covering review centers.

"We have to see the nature of review centers as we can't say for now because review centers are not under universities or a government agency," Ermita said.

In a statement, Bunye assured that the government would continue to clean up and reform the system.

Sen. Richard Gordon yesterday pressed the NBI to dig deeper into the leakage in the exams and not just recommend the filing of charges against two former members of the Board of Nursing.

Gordon said there was nothing new to the NBI recommendation to file charges against Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madeja for their alleged key role in the leakage.

Professional Regulation Commission chair Leonor-Tripon Senero had recommended the filing of charges against Dionisio and Madeja.

"Apparently, they are being made the patsies—the fall guys—to put closure to the controversy," Gordon said in an interview. "If you look at Rosero's recommendation, it's the same. So what investigation has the NBI done?"

Gordon said the NBI should come out with specific findings on who initiated the leakage, who benefited from it and who covered it up, and recommend measures to cleanse the system.

Efren Meneses Jr., chief of the NBI's anti-fraud and computer crimes division, said that Dionisio and Madeja violated Section 15 of the PRC Modernization Act.

Manipulation and other corrupt practices in the conduct of professional exams are punishable by six to 12 years.

Gordon said the NBI should also look into the culpability of the PRC in the possible cover-up of the leakage.

Gordon, together with Sen. Pia Cayetano, have sought a Senate inquiry into the leakage in aid of legislation.

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Pinays helped buck global trend to legalize prostitution

By Philip C. Tubeza

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND—With their harrowing experience and stand against legalizing prostitution, former prostituted Filipino women have helped stem the global trend to legalize the world's "oldest profession," a leading activist against the trafficking of women said yesterday.

Janice Raymond, co-director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) International, told the group's on-going international conference here in Chiang Mai that a 2003 manifesto of Filipina "survivors" of prostitution helped change the public perception in Western countries that prostitution should be legalized.

The manifesto was the result of the first national conference of former prostituted Filipino women held in Olongapo in 2003.

Raymond added that the Philippines' Anti Trafficking Law had become a "model" for other nations and that the country's refusal to legalize prostitution had provided an example that a poor country could resist "the temptation" of earning tax revenues from a legal sex industry.

"When that manifesto was publicized, that changed a lot of the terms of the debate," Raymond said.

"I think a lot of the things that had happened in the Philippines—the Anti Trafficking Law, the survivors' conference—has made an enormous difference worldwide," she added.

Raymond said that what was particularly striking with the stand of the former prostituted Filipino women "was the fact that there was a group of survivors who were challenging the public perception and the media perception that prostitution is work, is liberating for women, that we really need to legalize it and decriminalize it in many different countries of the world and make it normal."

She said before the manifesto, the dominant view was that prostitution was "a normal job and a free choice for women."

"That's the dominant view among a lot of countries, government, NGOs, and the public because what I'm calling the sex worker lobby has been very influential in promoting the position that they represent women in prostitution," Raymond said.

"So, when the Filipino conference took place and when that manifesto was publicized, that changed a lot of the terms of the debate. We could say that there's not one group that represents women in prostitution. That sex workers don't speak for survivors," she said.

"And I think it's great that Europe and America are using the wisdom of Asia rather than the other way around," she said.

Raymond said the country's Anti Trafficking Law had also been used as a "model" by other countries in the world.

"Even the fact that the legalization of prostitution was resisted, that was important especially for a country like the Philippines that has all the temptations to legalize prostitution," she said.

Raymond said many countries were moving to legalize prostitution because of the revenues they would get.

"So I mean a developing country, a poor country like the Philippines could very well have jumped at the opportunity to have legalized prostitution, but instead it didn't. That was very important," she said.

"I would say main emphasis has been to change the way the debate is going. It doesn't mean we are there yet. It means people are talking differently. And that there's a new discourse and that people are thinking differently, that yes, prostitution harms women," she added.

The United Nations estimates that 80 percent of persons trafficked are trafficked for prostitution. US state department records showed that globally, around 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked within and across borders annually.

Of this number, some 80 percent are women and girls and some 50 percent are minors.

Raymond said that the Philippines still faces the challenge of having American troops in the country, adding that they attract prostitutes although it is now considered a "court-martial" offense for a US soldier "to buy women for prostitution.

"I think a lot of people don't know that because they see the military behaving in quite a different way in the Philippines," she said.

Just the truth, says nursing leak witness

By Alcuin Papa

ALL HE WANTED WAS FOR THE truth to come out.

This was the reason Dennis Cesar Bautista, the lone witness to the nursing board exam leak, said why he came forward to pinpoint those allegedly behind the leak.

He also wanted to make everything right.

"I felt I needed to tell the truth. The truth will set us all free. We have to focus on what's there. We know were it came from. It's all there and the cast is complete," he said.

In an interview, the handsome 36-year-old Bautista, also insisted there was enough evidence to pin down those guilty for the leak, including former Philippine Nurses Association president and owner of the Philippine College of Health Sciences George Cordero.

But Cordero has threatened to expose Bautista as a scheming homosexual out for revenge, a charge the latter has strongly denied.

"I am not friends with him (Cordero), nor did I have any relationship with him. Also, I am not obsessed with him. Maybe he should stick to the issue instead of resorting to personal attacks."

Bautista, a graduate of the PCHS, has accused Cordero of being the source of the leak. He disclosed that Cordero held a "final coaching session" at the SM Manila where reviewers gave them the actual questions and answers in the board exam.

Bautista admitted that when rumors of the leak surfaced he exchanged text messages with Cordero. These messages, he said, would be enough to pin down Cordero. These were detailed in an affidavit Bautista submitted to probers and the Congressional hearings.

Life story

The life of the whistle-blower is as dramatic as the tale of cheating in the nursing board exam that he exposed.

Dennis grew up in the middle-class suburb of Sta. Mesa with thoughts of entering the priesthood. He studied at Don Bosco from elementary to second year college on scholarships and took an engineering degree. But that year, his father died.

"Since then, everything I've done was to support my family. I felt my family needed me. I decided to shelve my plan to be a priest," said the third child in a brood of four.

Later, Dennis decided to study computer science. Around five years ago, his mother advised him to take a nursing course, saying it would ensure him a job in America.

But now, a bright future has become nothing short of a nightmare.

Safehouse

Bautista talked candidly of the difficult life he has been forced to live after he exposed the leak. "It's been very difficult and I feel I am doing this all alone," said Bautista who now lives in a safehouse.

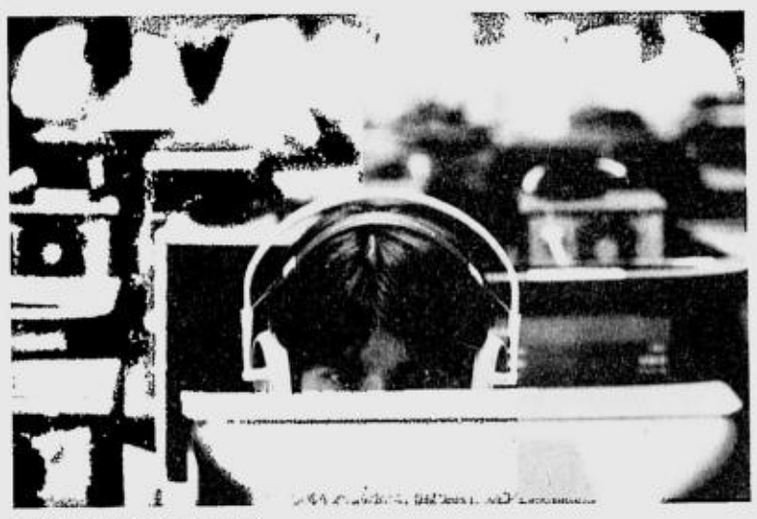
"I expected it to be this way, that people would be angry at me. They say I am destroying the name of my school (PCHS). I understand them. But it's Cordero who is destroying the name of the school and the profession, not me."

He also said there are many students who want to come out but are afraid for their own reasons.

No regret

Right now, the future looks bleak for Bautista. He has virtually given up any future in nursing. The PCHS has yet to release his school documents.

In the end, Bautista said he had no regrets. "I am tired and I want to go home. But what keeps me going is knowing you are fighting for the right thing. I'm sure I did the right thing. I don't regret it and I am not afraid because I know the truth."

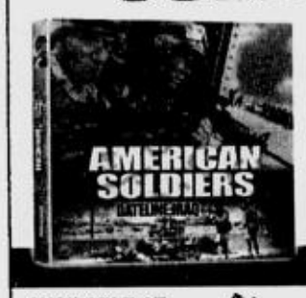


CYBER WARRIOR
A participant is all focus as he competes in the 2006 World Cyber Games Philippine Finals held at the SM Megamall Friday. Teams and players who survive the elimination round will meet in the grand finals on Sunday. RAFFY LERMA

American Soldiers ambushed during routine sortie in Iraq.

A story on the terrorizing experiences of young US Peace Keeping Force during the occupation of Iraq.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS
A DAY IN IRAQ



Iraq, 2004: during a routine sortie a US patrol is ambushed and the young American Soldiers are forced to put their training and skills into action. A determined foe with superior local knowledge, the Fedayeen insurgents soon draw them into close quarter combat and a desperate fight for survival.

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Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

A. The JBC announces the acceptance of the applications for the position of **DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR MILITARY** vice Hon. Orlando C. Casimiro who was appointed Overall Deputy Ombudsman on August 8, 2006.

Applicants/recommendees must (1) be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines; (2) be at least 40 years old at the time of his appointment; (3) be of recognized probity and independence; (4) be a member of the Philippine Bar; (5) not have been a candidate for any elective office in the immediately preceding election; and (6) have been for ten years or more a judge or engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines.

Applications/recommendations must be submitted **NOT LATER THAN September 15, 2006**. Applicants must submit to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr., Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512 Fax No. 552-9598)

6 copies of each of the following:
Application Letter/Recommendation Letter with conforme of the recommendee
Personal Data Sheet (JBC form I down-loadable from the JBC Website http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph)
Picture (2x2)
Certificate of Good Standing or latest Official Receipt from the IBP National Treasurer
ITR for 2 preceding years
Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, Office of the Bar Confidant and employer
Transcript of Records
Police Clearance from place of residence
Certificate of Bar Rating

B. The JBC also announces that the following are applicants for different judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC): (REGION IX) – *PAGADIAN CITY:* (Br. 22) **LAUREL**, Ernesto Maximo E. **(REGION X) – *CABADBARAN, AGUSAN DEL NORTE:*** (Br. 34) **RUIZ**, Salvador C. ***SURIGAO CITY, SURIGAO DEL NORTE:*** (Br. 29) **BAYANA**, Evangeline Sarvida

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (MTC): (REGION IV) – *SAN ANTONIO, QUEZON*: PANOPIO, Zendy Villanueva **(REGION V) – *SAN ANDRES, CATANDUANES*: REYES**, Lorna Obias.

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT (MCTC): (REGION XI) – *MALALAG-SULOP, DAVAO DEL SUR*; CASTAÑOS, Carlos Jr. B; **MADRAZO**, Leo T.; **MURCIA**, Virgilio G.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants **not later than September 11, 2006** to the JBC Secretariat.

C. All applicants to all JBC positions must submit to the JBC Secretariat ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1, current cellphone and landline numbers, and current residence and e-mail addresses.

August 31, 2006.

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI- Sept. 2, 2006)

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, A FRONT-PAGE story—"NBI seeks filing of raps vs 2 nursing board execs"—misspelled the surname of one of two former Board of Nursing members implicated in the leakage in the June nursing board exams. The former BON member is Virginia Madeja—not Madela.

***

ON the same page, the story "Tanker found 84 flagpoles deep" said MT Solar I was found under the sea at a depth of 640 meters. This depth is equivalent to about 84 standard flagpoles—which have a height of 25 feet or 7.62 meters each—standing end to end.

***

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Go for long-term solutions, environmentalists tell public

By Blanche S. Rivera

SKIP THE SUVS AND OTHER GAS GUZZLERS. Consume less and spare the environment from another possible oil disaster.

Environmentalists and fisherfolk groups yesterday called on the public to make a long-term difference to address not just the Guimaras oil spill but future environmental disasters that could be caused by oil.

"You can physically help in the cleanup, you can donate money, but more than that you should care enough to know how you can make a difference," Mother Earth Foundation spokesperson Penny Velasco said.

Velasco said the public's awareness on their oil dependency should be raised so that they can make lifestyle decisions that would make a difference in the long term.

"Almost everything in the world today runs on oil. By consuming less, we can help," Velasco said.

Kilusang Mangingisda chair Ruperto Aleroza said the public should not believe that the problem is confined solely to an environmental solution because "the real problem is our insatiable appetite for oil."

He said many people, especially in the urban areas, were more concerned about finding fuel for their gas-guzzling SUVs than the effects of this oil dependency on the environment.

"We have to consume less and look for ways to conserve because our consumption of oil is not sustainable," Aleroza said.

The fisher leader also lamented that President Macapagal-Arroyo's use of the term "eco mess" to describe the oil spill in Guimaras showed her lack of concern for the adverse long-term economic effect of the oil spill among fishers.

"Ultimately, the real losers in all of this will be the lowly fishermen struggling mightily to contain the spill," he said.

"They work until sundown scooping up the gooey sludge... They will go home with just enough money in hand to feed their families and survive the day but not for long. No one addresses the long-term economic damage to the thousands of fisherfolk and their families living in coastal communities in the Visayas," Aleroza said.

Nur allowed to attend Davao fest

By Christine O. Avendaño

A COURT HAS ALLOWED FORMER AUtonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Nur Misuari to attend today's celebration of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the peace accord between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front in Davao City.

The Makati City regional trial court gave Misuari, who is detained at a police camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, on rebellion charges, a "temporary liberty for one day."

Misuari is expected to join former President Fidel Ramos who signed the peace accord in 1996 that established the ARMM. Misuari, who was then head of the MNLF, signed the peace agreement in behalf of the secessionist movement.

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza told President Macapagal-Arroyo about the court order during her televised roundtable discussion on Mindanao.

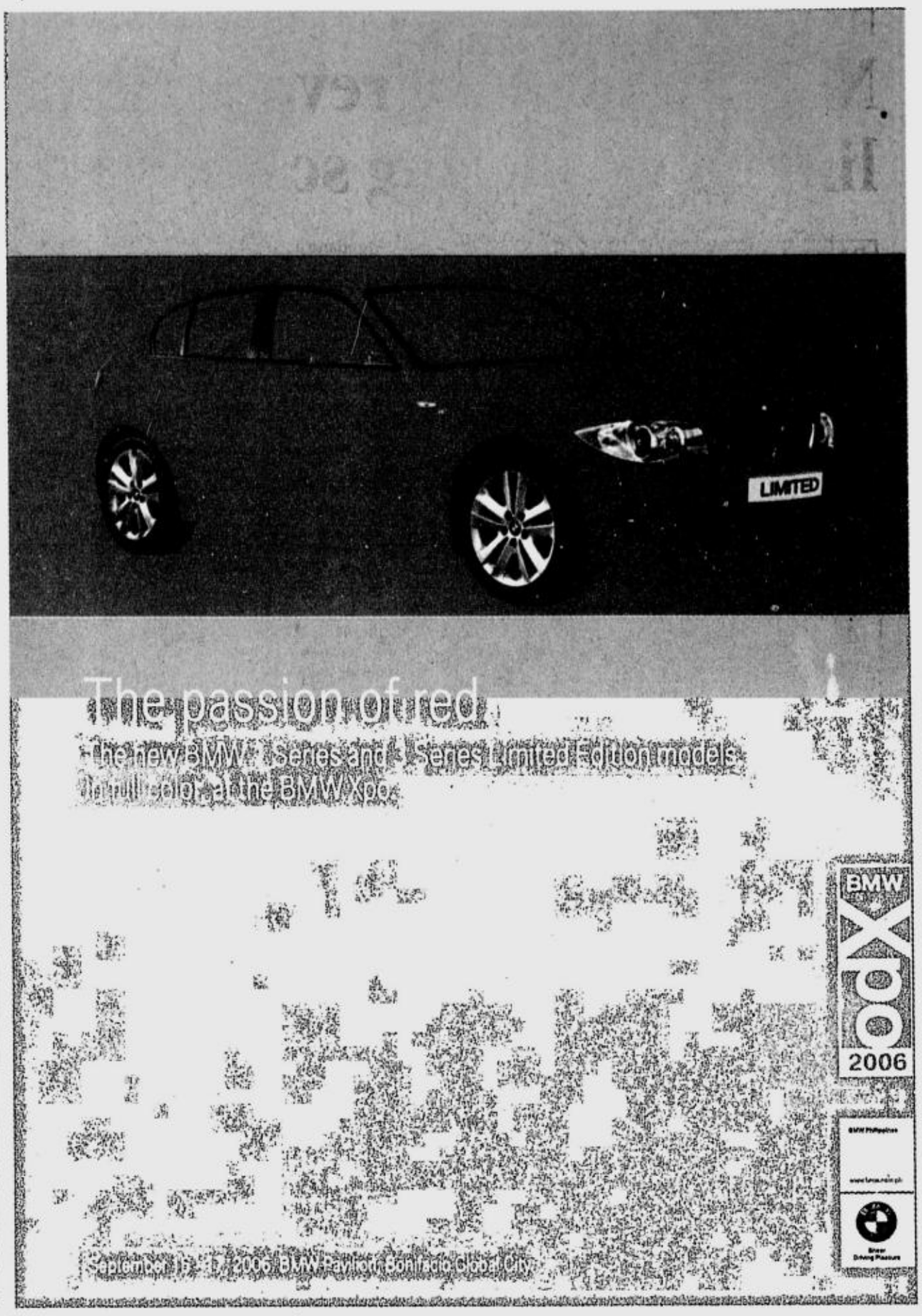
In its order, the Makati RTC branch 50 also allowed Abu Usman, a co-accused of Misuari, to attend the event.

The Davao City commemorative service was among the activities lined up by the government in observation of National Peace Consciousness Month, according to Dureza.

President Arroyo launched the month-long observation in a ceremony which included her ringing the bell at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

Dureza said that aside from the GRP-MNLF event, the government would also mark the 20th anniversary signing of its peace agreement with Cordillera Liberation People's Army this month.

Saying the country will remain vigilant in keeping its peace, President Arroyo also thanked God that the ceasefire agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front had been holding for more than three years now.



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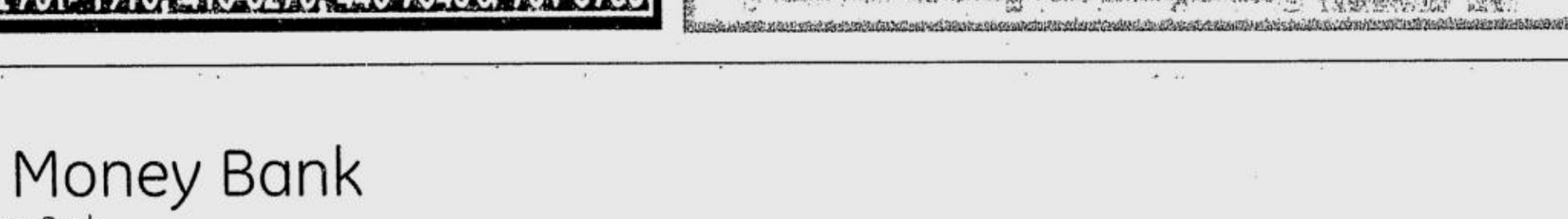
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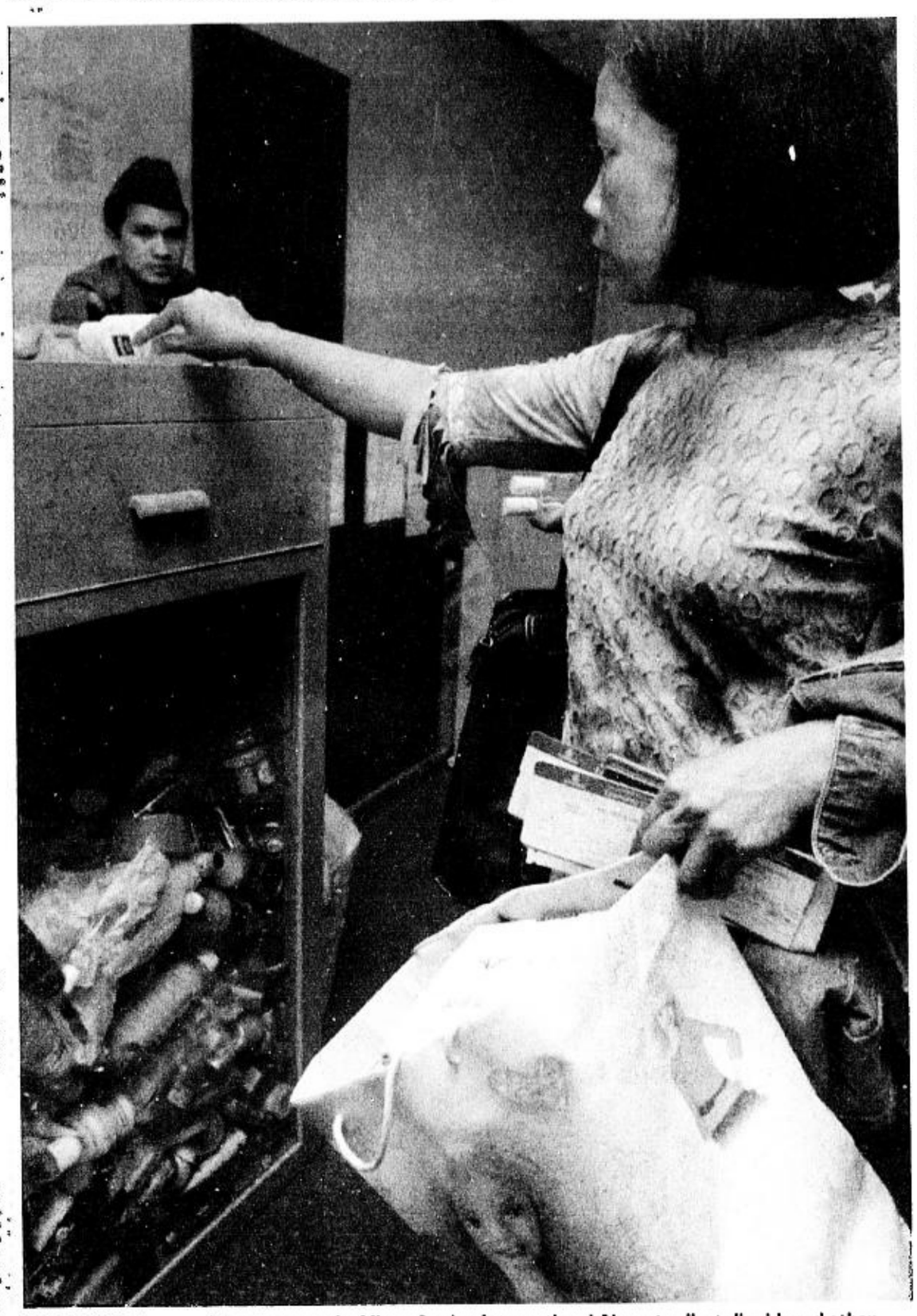
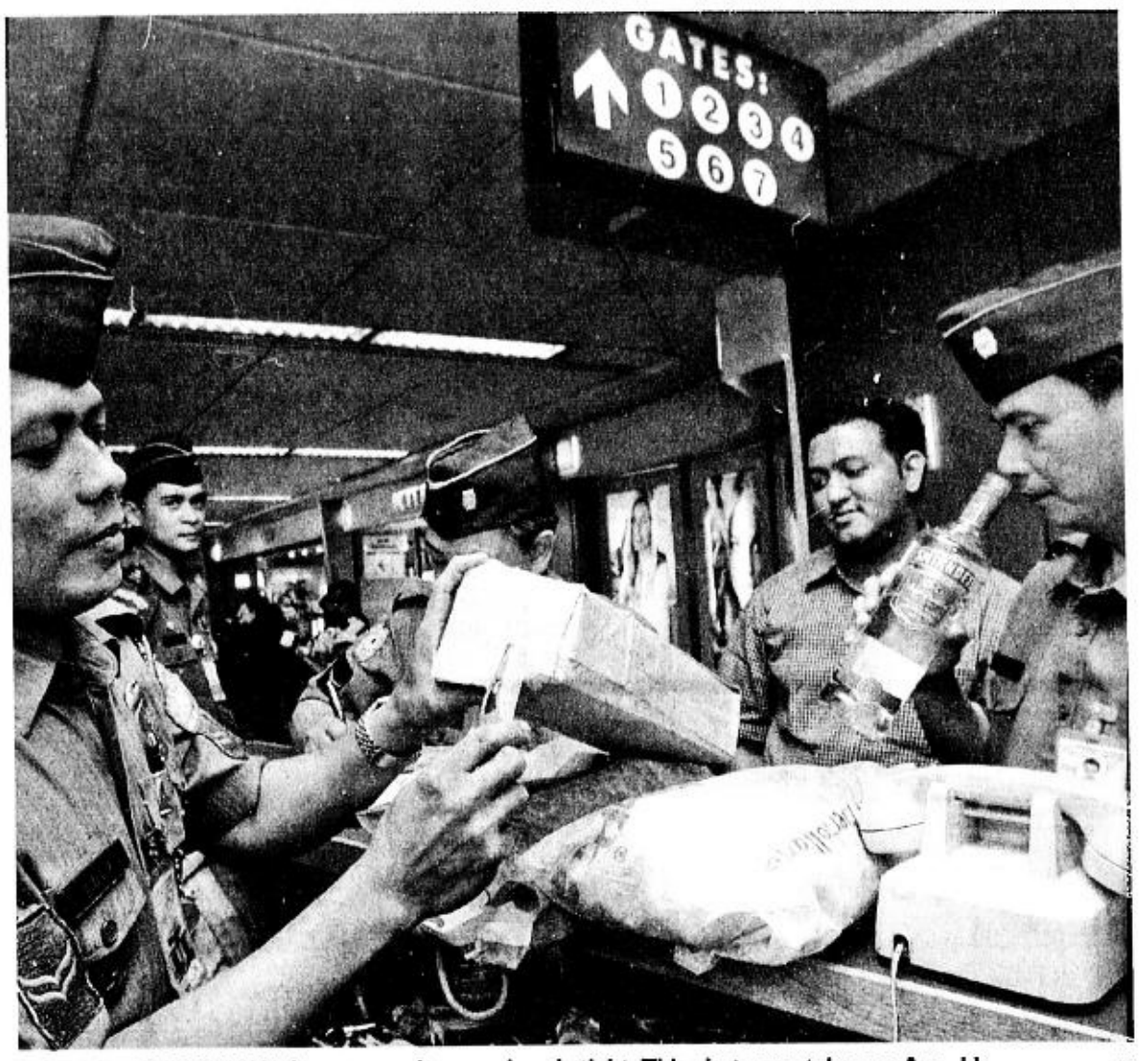


DROP BOX at a security counter at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport collects liquids and other items prohibited from the cabin of domestic and international flights. JESS YUSON



BEFORE THE BREACH, airport security was already tight. This photo was taken on Aug. 11. AP

'Breach' sets off alarm, jolts airport officials

From page A1

security at Philippine airports in the wake of a plot foiled by British authorities last month to simultaneously blow up US-bound planes.

The story triggered a series of closed-door meetings among security officials the whole day yesterday.

One result of the meetings is that starting today, passengers on domestic flights would be required to take off their shoes at security checks, and these would pass through X-rays as well, airport officials said.

'Not perfect'

"That means our security system against terrorists is not yet perfect. [The expert's] counter-assessment was good," Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon said, referring to the INQUIRER report.

"We have to adopt stricter measures. Perhaps we need more instruments because ... he managed to slip past bomb-sniffing dogs and X-ray machines."

PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon said "we are not surprised" that an antiterrorism expert had succeeded in breaching airport security.

"In general, what we have is some lack in implementation of procedures. What we have now is just a cursory search, not just on the part of the security units of establishments but everyone, including the police and citizenry," Razon said.

Vigilance needed

He said there was a need to "strengthen and make stricter our procedures to thwart any foreign terrorists attacks."

This can be done by a closer check of baggage and body searches.

"We are taking this (report) very seriously," Razon said. "We have to implement controlled remedial measures and continue our vigilance and alertness to prevent a terrorist attack."

He said Calderon had issued a directive to concerned units to "find out ways to strengthen security."

Razon also said there was a need to "update and make current our knowledge and technology to fight terrorism."

"Since terrorists are also improving their technology so we might change personnel and technology. We have to keep up," Razon said.

The INQUIRER story prompted the tightening of security at airports even in the provinces.

Some officials questioned the lack of coordination by those who carried out the covert exercise with other security authorities.

"We don't know if this test was really conducted because there was no coordination made with any of the offices that should know about a security audit," Penilla said at a press conference.

He said any audit on aviation security must be coordinated with the OTS, the Manila International Airport Authority, the PNP-Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG), and the antiterrorism task force, in accordance with the rules of the International Civil Aviation Organization (Icao).

No coordination

No one, from Penilla to airport chief Alfonso Cusi and ASG director Chief Supt. Andres Caro, knew about the exercise.

Penilla said that they also asked other government agencies, such as the PNP, the Armed Forces and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) if the operation was coordinated with them.

They all answered no, Penilla said.

Airport and airline officials interviewed by the INQUIRER were obviously peeved by the report mainly because, they explained, security tests must be coordinated with the authorities.

"The report caused undue alarm to our passengers, our visitors, the tourists," Caro said.

Investigation under way

Penilla said that local security checks that did not follow Icao standards could prompt countries to stop air carriers from servicing the Philippines or refuse Philippine air carriers to land in their airports.

An investigation is now under way.

A source privy to the investigation told the INQUIRER that initial results showed that the expert was commissioned by Davao Mayor Rudy Duterte to test the airport security.

The investigation has also identified the airline and the flight that the expert took last Aug. 14.

Cusi said they were not downplaying the INQUIRER report, adding that the security at the international and domestic terminals "may be subjected to another reassessment."

Icao audit

"We may have to implement counter-measures," Cusi said.

He said that security audits were regularly conducted not only by Philippine government agencies but by the Icao and the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA), as well.

Miaa security chief, retired general Angel Atutubo, said there would be a "realignment, redeployment and retraining of airport security personnel" following the report.

Atutubo added that X-rays would also be repositioned at the old domestic airport and bomb sniffing dogs would be deployed at the terminal.

Atutubo said that he was expecting the arrival next week of some four German-made X-ray machines that would be used at the old domestic airport and the domestic Centennial Terminal.

Some officials said that "human factor" might have caused the security breach.

Security adequate

But Penilla said that reports from aviation security heads indicated that there was "normal implementation of security measures" on Aug. 14, when the unnamed passenger said he carried out his bold operation.

"There's no such thing as 100 percent security for a determined terrorist," Penilla said.

According to Penilla, his office conducts its own tests and these have proven the security measures to be adequate.

"Some [of the tests] are announced, some are unannounced, some are covert, some are done by sending personnel who would identify themselves as government personnel and then try to skip inspections, and so forth," Penilla stressed.

For his part, Cusi appealed to the public to "adhere to the security measures" being implemented at airports. He also stressed the importance of the passage of the antiterrorism bill.

"We need that to give teeth to our security measures," Cusi said.

Security at Cebu

Even the Air Transportation Office (ATO), which was supposed to have been informed of the expert's findings, apparently does not know the individual or the agency behind the operation.

In Cebu, passengers and baggage at the Mactan Cebu International Airport underwent rigid inspection by security personnel starting yesterday.

Supt. Jose Cosio Jr., chief of the 7th Police Center for Aviation Security, said he instructed his men to impose stricter inspection after reading the INQUIRER report. *With reports from Alcuin Papa, Riza T. Olchondra, Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao, Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

'Expert played with people's lives'

From page A1

used in security audits.

"Because what if something happens on board, and the bomb explodes?" Cusi stressed.

The unidentified passenger could be charged with bringing on board prohibited items, the officials said.

"Even the airline that this expert took could file charges against him," said retired general Angel Atutubo, Miaa security chief.

Cusi and Penilla urged the expert, as well as the government official or agency that the man said commissioned his services, to meet with airport security officials and discuss with them the results of the test.

Role of OTS

"A post evaluation should have been done," Cusi said.

Penilla added that the expert, who said he hoped his recommendations would be forwarded to the Air Transportation Office (ATO), should have submitted his report to the OTS.

"ATO chief Nilo Jatico said he didn't receive a report ... But you know, the ATO is concerned about the airworthiness of an aircraft," Penilla said.

Air travel security is the domain of the OTS, he added.

The OTS is also the "only organization authorized to conduct an airport security audit," he said.

Malice intended?

In a statement, Cusi also said: "While we are aware that our security measures are subject to periodic audit, which is done randomly and unannounced, the reported 'security test' undertaken by the supposed civilian antiterrorism expert was not coordinated with authorized airport officials as prescribed in Annex 4.11.14 of the Icao Security Manual."

The Airline Operators Council (AOC) was just as disappointed with the unauthorized security test.

"Malice seemed to have been injected in that test," Onie Nakpil, AOC chair, told the INQUIRER.

Nakpil, an airline security officer, warned of the international repercussions of the incident.

"It would show that the authorities are not in control, that they are doing checks versus their own people," Nakpil said.

No glossing over

Malacañang said it was checking the matter with the security establishment.

"Let's not jump to conclusions. This is a claim. Anybody can make a claim but this claim is being verified," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

But Bunye also said: "This is something you cannot gloss over. It's standard security precaution."

He also said the report should "not be a cause for undue alarm" as he assured the public that "the necessary steps are being undertaken by our security group" to secure the country's airports.

"Continuing tests of the system are being conducted to plug all security loopholes and the public may be assured that the government is on top of the situation," Bunye said.

Unauthorized exercise

The reported security exercise was "not authorized by any of the agencies under the Anti-Terrorism Task Force," Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor of the Office of the Executive Secretary said in a phone interview.

"As a practice, the government doesn't employ private consultants to do systems check. These system checks are official and according to procedures," said Blancaflor, who is executive director of the legal affairs and public information of the task force.

Blancaflor said that the INQUIRER should have been "more circumspect of the overall situation."

"Sometimes we blurt out news without thinking of the ramifications," Blancaflor said, as he noted that this kind of story could send a wrong message. It also could have an effect on the country's tourism, he said.

Blancaflor also said airport officials had told him that some airlines had called inquiring if indeed the story was true and "how bad the situation was."

Big concern

"It raised some eyebrows and raised some concerns," he said of the INQUIRER report.

But even if this report drew negative reactions, Blancaflor said they welcomed "this event."

"We would welcome a copy of the report (of the civilian expert). Everything will help at this time," he said, noting that acts of terrorism have killed 302 Filipinos since the Dec. 31, 2000 Rizal Day bombing of the Light Rail Transit.

"The important thing is the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police are working together and we even have a strong international arrangement as far as security is concerned," Bunye told reporters.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said the story was a "big concern."

"One way of looking at this is that we have found some flaws in the security system so if they have not taken the necessary (steps), they better do it now. Otherwise, we become vulnerable to some terrorist activities," Esperon told reporters.

Gov't hospitals gaining acceptance–SWS

From page A1

vice, government assistance, trust and familiarity, and accreditation with health maintenance organizations."

Sixty-two percent of the respondents said they were "satisfied with the services given by government hospitals," according to the DOH statement.

The DOH runs a total of 73 hospitals around the country, as well as 1,300 private clinics and medical centers.

Government hospitals have become a popular option because of their nominal fees. For example, a kidney transplantation could cost between P1 million and P1.5 million when done in a private medical center, but would only cost P500,000 in a government institution.

The huge discount, however, was not an assurance that impoverished people could get a new kidney.

At the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, for instance, between 180 and 200 patients were on the waiting list for transplantation, Dr. Reynaldo Lesaca, head of the hospital's Disease Organ Donor Program, told the INQUIRER in a previous interview.

Lesaca said around 8,000 new kidney cases were recorded yearly, but only 300 to 400 transplantations were usually done.

"We are happy that the public has finally recognized the capabilities of state hospitals. Over the years, the 73 government-run hospitals have not only upgraded their equipment and facilities but also harnessed the skills of their staff in treating and caring for patients," Duque said.

SCOUT RANGERS COMING

AFP presses hunt for Janjalani, Bali bombers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY HAS STEPPED UP ITS manhunt for wanted Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani and two Indonesian fugitives behind the 2002 Bali bombings, who are believed to be hiding in the mountainous province of Sulu.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said a 92-man unit from the elite Army Scout Rangers would be deployed to Jolo to augment forces tracking down Janjalani and Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) bomb experts Umar Patek and Dulmatin.

Five Marine battalions and three Army battalions have been engaged in a month-long offensive with remnants of the Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu.

Patek and Dulmatin, wanted for the October 2002 Bali bombings that left 202 people dead, are believed to be hiding in Sulu's rugged jungle under the protection of Abu Sayyaf militants led by Janjalani, Esperon said.

Janjalani, Patek and Dulmatin are also wanted by the United States government which has offered a $10-million reward for the capture of Dulmatin and $1 million for Patek.

The three have remained on Jolo island and have so far eluded a massive operation launched last month.

"They (Janjalani's group) are still in Sulu," insisted Esperon in response to reports that Janjalani has escaped anew a military dragnet and has fled to nearby Basilan province.

The military claimed it had sealed off all possible exit points in Sulu that Janjalani might take.

But Esperon admitted that troops were finding it hard to locate Janjalani's group due to Sulu's mountainous and jungle terrain.

"It's hard to look for a needle in the forest," he said. "We will be inserting in Jolo (the) Scout Rangers who are on (a) test mission," he said, without elaborating.

AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro refused to say whether Janjalani and his group have in fact been sighted in the area.

"We do believe that the three personalities are still in the island of Jolo. There are indicators (but) I cannot give you the details," he said.

Last week, Marines clashed with 100 Abu Sayyaf guerrillas in barangay Danag in Mt. Sinumaan in Patikul, Sulu, leaving three soldiers dead and 31 wounded. Thirteen rebels were killed, seven wounded and five were captured, the military said.

But Abu Sulaiman, an Abu Sayyaf leader on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists, said Wednesday that at least five members have been killed in the offensive, but claimed guerrillas killed as many as 50 soldiers.

Bacarro denied Sulaiman's claim as "purely propaganda."

US antiterror forces are also on the ground helping with intelligence work, but not engaged in actual combat, officials said.

Filipino intelligence officials have said JI was building up links with Abu Sayyaf, considered a terrorist organization by the US. The Abu Sayyaf is also believed to have ties with al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. *With reports from AFP, AP*

BIR cans sardine firm for tax evasion

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVenue (BIR) on Thursday filed tax evasion charges against Mega Fishing Corp., maker of Mega sardines, for alleged underdeclaration of taxes amounting to more than P70 million.

Charged before the Department of Justice were William Tiu Lim, president, and Marilou Tiu Lim, treasurer.

Mega Fishing is engaged in deep sea fishing, sale of canned/pouched sardines, manufacturing of fishmeal and operation of fishmeal plant and operation of an ice plant.

BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said the company was found to have underdeclared its tax returns for 2002 and 2003, deliberately issued unregistered delivery/cash receipts and sales invoices and issued provisional receipts in the name of an unregistered corporation.

Investigation showed that the BIR received a denunciation letter with a sworn complaint affidavit dated Nov. 12, 2005 citing Mega Fishing for tax evasion through non-issuance of official receipts or issuance of unregistered self-numbered receipts resulting in non-payment of correct taxes.

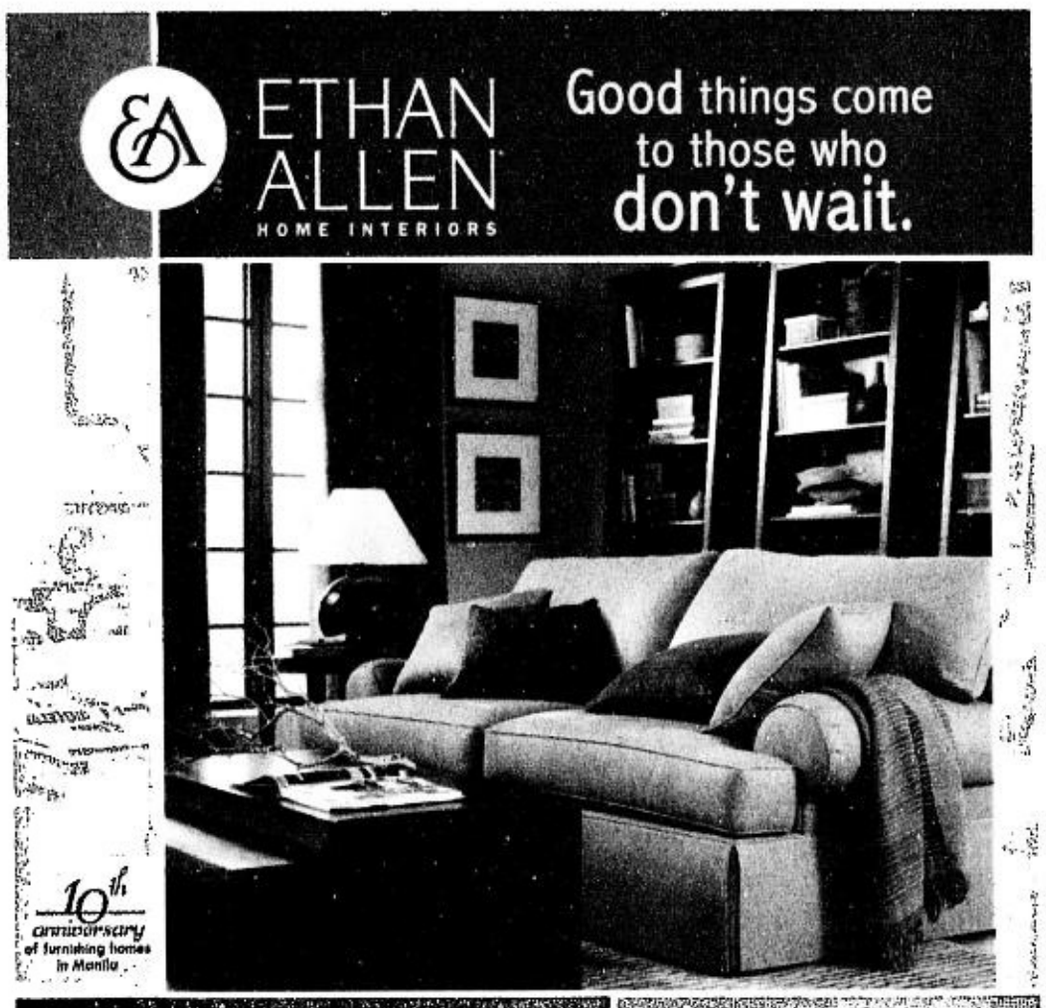
"The deliberateness and enormity of the acts of underdeclarations committed by the respondent corporation can be seen from the series of undeclared transactions through the issued receipt numbers, which undoubtedly were not declared (as income) for tax purposes," Buñag said.

The "Pre-Processed Relief Data" obtained by BIR from third party information (TPI) showed that Mega Fishing had total sales of P115,597,559.95 for 2002 and 2003 but declared only P29,844,154.00 with BIR in its tax returns for the same period.

As a result, there was an underdeclaration of income by 548 percent or P7 million for 2002 and by P69,604,602.15 or 206 percent for 2003.

Substantial underdeclaration of income in an amount exceeding 30 percent of that declared in the tax return constitutes prima facie evidence of false or fraudulent return, the BIR declared.

The BIR said that Mega Fishing's assessed deficiency income tax and value-added tax amounted to P30,392,094.07 for 2002 and P21,911,179.52 for 2003, inclusive of increments.



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 2, 2006
21st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 1:26-31
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said to his disciples, "Imagine someone who, before going abroad, summoned his servants to entrust his property to them. He gave five talents of silver to one, then two to another, and one to a third, each one according to his ability; and he went away. He who received five talents went at once to do business with the money and gained another five. The one who received two did the same and gained another two. But the one with one talent dug a hole and hid his master's money.

'After a long time, the master of those servants returned and asked for a reckoning. The one who received five talents came with another five talents, saying: 'Lord, you entrusted me with five talents, but see I have gained five more with them.' The master answered: 'Very well, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in a few things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.' Then the one who had two talents came and said: 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents; I have two more which I gained with them.' The master said: 'Well, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in little things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.'

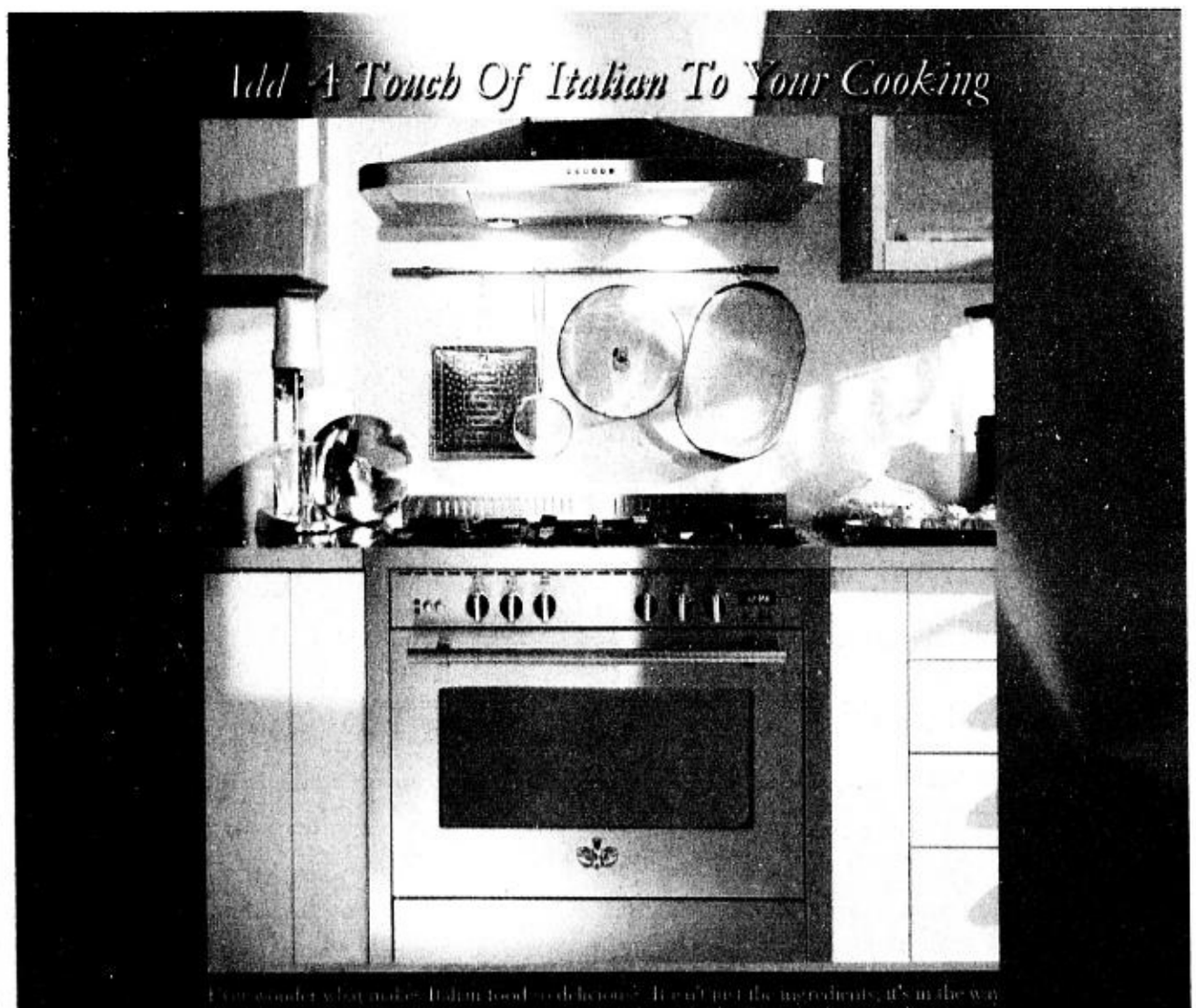
'Finally, the one who had received one talent came and said: 'Master, I know that you are an exacting man. You reap what you have not sown and gather what you have not invested. I was afraid, so I hid your money in the ground. Here, take what is yours.' But his master replied: 'Wicked and worthless servant, you know that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not invested. Then you should have deposited my money in the bank, and you would have given it back to me with interest on my return.

'Therefore, take the talent from him, and give it to the one who has ten. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who are unproductive, even what they have will be taken from them. As for that useless servant, throw him out into the dark where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Commentary

We are called; and most of those who were called weren't wise or influential, but lowborn and despised in the world. But we have life in Jesus who is our wisdom, justice, sanctification and redemption and we are only to boast in the Lord. Does that look anything like us?

Jesus tells the story of the talents, a huge amount of money given to servants while the master went on a journey. He returns to hold them accountable for what they've done with what they were entrusted with—sounds like the world—and it is not how God judges, but the way the world does. Are we more intent on making it in the world's judgment or in the eyes of God?



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Confession website offers no absolution

From page A1

nessman and churchgoer who is having a sexual relationship with another man in his church. There is the young woman who shot an abusive boyfriend when she was high on methamphetamine.

About a month ago, LifeChurch, an evangelical network with nine locations and based in Edmond, Okla., set up mysecret.tv as a forum for people to confess anonymously on the Internet.

The LifeChurch founder, the Rev. Craig Groeschel, said LifeChurch, which is 10 years old, tries to draw back those who may have left the faith. The church hews to a conservative theology on homosexuality and abortion. Its nine sites, in Arizona, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas, draw a total of 18,000 people to weekend services.

Still, mysecret.tv represents the first time the church has had an interactive website tied to its sermons, in this case a series that Groeschel began last month on the need for confession.

The Internet already offers many places to confess, from the dry menu of sins at www.absolution-online.com to the raunchy exhibitionism at sites like www.confessionjunkie.com and www.grouphug.us. Like much on the Internet, it is impossible to know whether the stories recounted are sincere or pure fiction.

One of the best-known sites is postsecret.blogspot.com, an extension of an art project in which people write their secrets on postcards and mail them to an address in Germantown, Md.

Thumma said the resources section of the site could be improved. It lists mostly religious books rather than mental health services.

Since its inception, mysecret.tv has received more than 150,000 hits and more than 1,500 confessions, Groeschel said. Absolution is not part of the bargain, just the beginning of release.

"There's no magic in confessing on a website," Groeschel said. "My biggest fear is that someone would think that and would go on with life. This is just Step 1." *New York Times*

ARMED FORCES Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon strikes a pose at the mass grave that must have led Rep. Satur Ocampo to describe him as "sepulturero." REUTERS

Mass graves: AFP to file raps vs Joma, Satur, et al.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PHILIPPINE Armed Forces vowed yesterday to file charges against Communist Party founder Jose Ma. Sison and two others for allegedly ordering guerrillas to kill up to 300 suspected spies in the 1980s.

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said the military, police and other agencies will file multiple murder charges against Sison and chief rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni, both living in exile in The Netherlands, and opposition Rep. Satur Ocampo.

Ocampo, a former rebel negotiator, denied the allegation after officials reported Thursday that soldiers in Southern Leyte found mass graves believed to hold the remains of up to 300 people allegedly killed by the rebels, who have waged a Maoist insurgency for 37 years.

Former New People's Army guerrillas and victims' relatives were willing to testify against the leaders, said regional Army spokesperson Maj. Felix Mangyao.

So far, troops and relatives have dug up at least 67 bodies in a hilly jungle near Inopacan town in Leyte, said military spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

He said the shallow graves could hold the remains of up to 300 people, based on information from former rebels and victims' relatives.

Esperon was accompanied to the site by police forensic experts and victims' relatives, who wept as the remains were unearthed.

"Of course we are filing cases against them," Esperon told reporters. "This kind of atrocities will make us more determined to finish the fight against the NPA and its front organizations."

He said the military hoped to cut the number of rebels from 7,000 to 2,000 within four years. "An avalanche of developments will outrun them," he said.

Ocampo said he suspected the Army may have announced the discovery of the graves to bolster claims that the rebels were behind numerous killings of left-wing activists.

The killings have been condemned by human rights groups and prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to order an investigation. Left-wing groups have blamed the military, which has denied involvement.

Ocampo has said he was not aware of the alleged purges in Southern Leyte. He was jailed from 1976-85 then escaped and rejoined the rebels. He was arrested again in 1989 for several years.

Leaders of the underground Communist Party and its armed wing have acknowledged that up to 900 suspected spies and government informers were killed in the southern Mindanao region during the 1980s. More than 60 others were killed in Quezon province and outlying areas southeast of Manila, according to people who survived the purges. *AP*

A PRIEST blesses with holy water the skeletal remains of what a captured communist leader said were government agents killed in a bloody communist purge. REUTERS

Purge story a bum steer–Satur

By Michael Lim Ubac

DECLARING THE SO-CALLED COMMUNists' mass graves in Leyte a "*kuryente*" (bum steer), House Deputy Minority Leader Satur C. Ocampo yesterday accused Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr. of "engaging in black propaganda" in connection with the charge that the opposition leader was among those behind a purported purge in Leyte.

"After helping Mrs. Arroyo cheat in 2004 and in the ensuing cover-up, Mr. Esperon now uses this discredited 'purge' story to desperately conceal the military's role in extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances of the President's critics," Ocampo said in a statement.

He said that while Maj. Gen. Avelino Razon had testified before the Melo Commission yesterday, Esperon was playing the role of a "*sepulturero*" (cemetery caretaker).

"Both of them want to wipe off the blood of innocents from their hands and point the blame at Ka Satur," Ocampo said.

He maintained that the military and the police were behind the perpetrators of 744 extrajudicial killings and 181 enforced disappearances in the country as part of the government's counterinsurgency program "Oplan Bantay Laya."

He pointed out that it was public knowledge that he was in prison and was "being tortured by the military" at the time of the so-called Leyte purge.

"Jose Ma. Sison was also in prison and being tortured, while Luis Jalandoni was in exile in The Netherlands," he said, referring to the founders of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"It is also laughable for Esperon to write a script that would have a witness go to absurd lengths as to allege that Sison, Jalandoni and Ka Satur would allow themselves to sign with their own names an order for the New People's Army to commit crimes such as multiple murder," he said.

Ocampo disclosed that the underground movement used pseudonyms and codes.

"It is also public knowledge that the purges have long been painfully admitted by the Communist Party of the Philippines, the victims given decent burials and tributes as martyrs, and the perpetrators and masterminds have since left the Party and now act as special agents of the military and police to avoid being held accountable to their criminal acts."

He said this could be another bum steer coming from the administration especially now that more foreign government and organizations have been seeking an end to the killings and abductions.

"The military top brass is so desperate to save its remaining honor, the generals find nothing wrong in lying to the public, using corpses and skeletons to portray an alleged purge, and continuing to engage in partisan political activity against legitimate party-list organizations and representatives like myself," he stressed.

Tycoons ...

From page A1

runs as many as four shifts to accommodate the big number of students.

Long-term budgetary and system constraints have led to the worsening quality of education, which is threatening the long-term viability of the economy and the stability of the country's democratic institutions.

Pushing for reforms

To arrest the declining quality of education, some of the country's leading business personalities have formed the Philippine Business for Education (PBEd) to push for reforms in the education sector and to use their resources more wisely and deliberately to make immediate changes.

"We cannot just stand by and watch the continuing decline of the system, we cannot allow paralysis to take over, we cannot not do anything," Ramon R. del Rosario Jr. said yesterday during a Philippine Education Forum in Makati City.

Del Rosario, Phinma president and CEO, is founding board member of PBEd. Other members of the board are: Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II of the Ayala group, Jose L. Cuisia Jr. of the AIG group, Monico V. Jacob of STI, Oscar M. Lopez of the Lopez group, Bank of the Philippine Islands president Aurelio Montinola III, former Trade Secretary Rizalino S. Navarro, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, SGV and Co. founder Washington Z. SyCip, Jollibee Food Corp. chief executive Tony Tan Caktiong and McDonald's Philippines' chair George T. Yang.

Business should take on a fourfold role to help solve the crisis hounding education, Del Rosario told his fellow business leaders and education industry players present during yesterday's forum.

Long-term is the word

First, business must work with government and provide it with a "long-term, consistent and continuous perspective" in efforts to arrest education's declining quality. Sadly, DepEd has had 10 secretaries over the past 20 years, not including newly appointed Secretary Jesli Lapus.

"We can champion well thought-out and studied programs, whether new or already in existence, push for increased funding and better use of resources and become partners of government in a non-political reform agenda," Del Rosario said.

Second, business must work with nonprofit, nongovernment organizations, associations and coalitions that have had success in addressing the education crisis.

"Our strengths, the focus on effectiveness, efficiency and output, can hopefully add much to the efforts of civil society," he said.

Third, Del Rosario said business must work with communities in the same way that Gawad Kalinga is leading the way in the community-based approach to solving other social ills.

Gawad Kalinga style

Gawad Kalinga is a movement that builds integrated, holistic and sustainable communities in depressed areas. It started 11 years ago and has built more than 850 housing developments for free for more than 100,000 families in various regions. It is committed to building 7,000 new communities by 2010.

"Our corporations must begin adopting not just schools but communities. We must unleash the power of our resources for education on local levels by working hand in hand with principals and teachers, district heads, local governments, parent associations, school boards, barangay officials and local NGO partners in education," he said.

Lastly, Del Rosario said different business sectors should work with one another, considering that the business community invests at least P1.2 billion a year in different projects on education.

"Like our NGO counterparts, [we] achieve mixed results. It is time for business to act in a better coordinated and more unified manner," he said, adding: "We must build synergies and push for genuine and sustainable reform hinged on performance and accountability across the education sector."

Del Rosario ended with a call for more groups in the private sector to join in the consensus-building project to push reforms in the education sector and to hold the government accountable for the funds that are supposed to go to education.

"Education is everyone's business," he said. ***With a report from Daxim L. Lucas***

Poll fraud witness from South seeks protection of bishops

By Norman Bordadora

THE SELF-CONFESSED FABRICATOR of certificates of canvass in South Upi, Maguindanao yesterday asked the Catholic bishops for protection.

Clinton John Colcol, erstwhile member of the municipal staff in South Upi, said in a news conference that he had been in the custody of "a priest" for the past weeks. He, however, still deemed it necessary to seek protection from the bishops.

He appealed for protection from Bishop-Emeritus of Infanta, Quezon Julio Labayan and Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, who are both staunch critics of Ms Arroyo, as well as members of the Kilusang Makabayang Ekonomiya.

"The bishops will be willing to help," Iñiguez said. "We'll find ways to help but we can't discuss it in public."

Fellow KME member and Arroyo critic Bishop Antonio Tobias of Novaliches said that he had been burned by witnesses seeking his protection.

Tobias was earlier tagged by the military as a coddler of military rebels.

Colcol had made a video and signed an affidavit saying that he forged the municipal CoC of South Upi town to show that President Macapagal-Arroyo had won in the 2004 election.

"I am not like the other witnesses who came out. I will stick to the truth," Colcol said before the Bishops-People's Forum organized by the KME.

"I am doing this against the wishes of my family and loved ones. All the Muslims in Mindanao idolize Fernando Poe, Jr. How can he lose in Mindanao?" he added.

Colcol and another witness Arsenio Rasalan made public their alleged participation in the electoral fraud instrumental in Ms Arroyo's victory in the 2004 elections.

Colcol said he had neither met nor talked with Rasalan.

CLINTON JOHN Colcol, the alleged witness in the electoral fraud committed in the May 2004 elections, comes out in the open—but not quite—during the regular Bishops Forum held at St. Peter's Church along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, Friday. Most of the media folk were unaware that Colcol was sitting beside them, wearing a black shirt, dark sunglasses and red cap.

JOAN BONDOC

In his affidavit, Rasalan said he supervised the fabrication of 10,000 election returns that would reflect victories for Ms Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro which were switched with the ERs in the ballot boxes at the House of Representatives after the 2004 national canvassing of votes.

The CoCs read during the canvass—showing Ms Arroyo and De Castro's respective victories—were allegedly made without regard to the ERs still in the ballot boxes.

"Rasalan has a much bigger story. His testimony is about the switching of ballot boxes in Congress. I'm not privy to that," Colcol said.

Colcol and Rasalan were supposed to appear together in a news conference at the St. Peter's Church in Quezon City a few weeks ago.

The news conference, however, was canceled. Instead, unidentified young men arrived at the church grounds and distributed copies of Colcol's and Rasalan's sworn affidavits and compact discs of their video-recorded testimonies.

DepEd: Teachers should pass psycho test

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) said yesterday it wants applicants for teaching positions in public schools to pass a psychological test.

DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus said the move comes in the wake of increasing reports of teachers inflicting physical harm on students.

"We will require them (teachers) to first undergo psychological test so that we can stop child abuse in schools," Lapus told a press conference at the DepEd's central office in Pasig City.

Lapus stressed that the psychological test will be a deterrent to future abuses since it will determine the mental competence of future teachers.

While he said the number of child abuse cases perpetrated by teachers is "insignificant," Lapus pointed out that the abuse should be stopped.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary Franklin Sunga of DepEd's Legal and Legislative Affairs said he has ordered Regional Directors around the country to expedite the resolution of child abuse cases by the end of the year.

"I have issued a memorandum ordering for a zero backlog of child abuse cases by Dec. 30," he told reporters.

He explained that teachers involved in these cases are not automatically expelled from government service since they are covered by the Magna Carta for Teachers.

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Ermita says gov't ready to pay Piatco P3 billion

By Christine O. Avendano

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDUARDO ERMITA yesterday appealed to certain quarters not to block the government's bid to have a Court of Appeals lifted so that it could pave the way for the operation of the controversial Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Ermita insisted that the government was ready to pay the Philippine International Air Terminal Co., (Piatco) P3 billion in compensation for building the airport terminal but it kept facing "legal impediments."

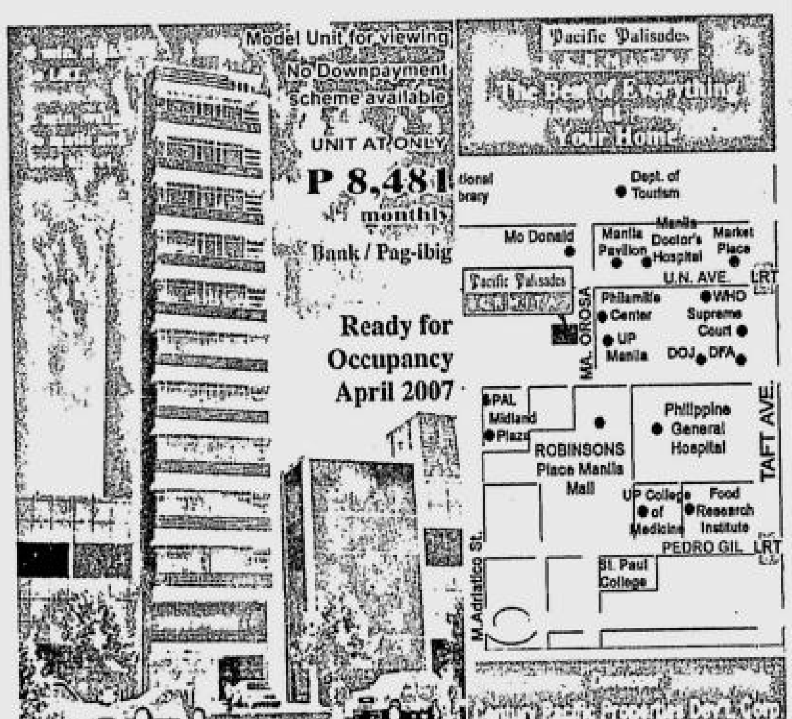
Now that the Solicitor General's Office had filed a motion asking the CA to lift its order stopping the payment of P3 billion to Piatco, the executive secretary expressed hope the CA would act on this favorably and appealed that no one block this bid.

"*Sana huwag na nilang hadlangan etong paglift ng* TRO," Ermita told reporters, saying he was referring to "whoever was behind these legal maneuvers."

He said that it was the Filipino people who would be the ones to be affected by the continued delayed of the airport's operation. Ermita met with the Palace legal people the other day on the Piatco issue following the Aug. 23 ruling of the Singapore-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) that the government return the airport facility to the Filipino-German consortium for failing to pay just compensation to Piatco.

Asked to comment on Piatco's move the other day to postpone its takeover of the facility on the strength of the ICC ruling, Ermita said the consortium was just "positioning" itself "when it knows that the ICC order is not final and executory."

"(Piatco) has to go to legal processes under our local courts," Ermita said, as he lamented that this was why the opening of the terminal continues to be delayed because of this "kind of legal impediment."



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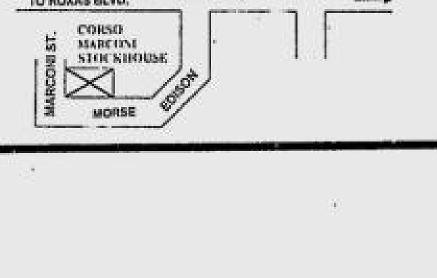

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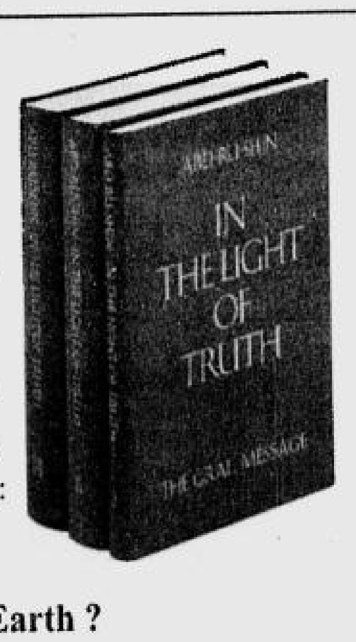

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PHILIPPINE DAIL

RODEL ROTONI

Apostol dares media: Be a disturbing presence

From page A1

turbing presence to government. She has been a journalist for 50 years, the last 25 years of which were spent on the front lines against the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship and the administration of Joseph Estrada.

Regarded by her media colleagues as a "legend for her wit, grace and irreverence," Apostol turned out to be a disturbing presence herself to some 200 students, teachers and concerned citizens who attended the lecture, the fifth in this year's RM Awardees lecture series at the Ramon Magsaysay Center.

Apostol is known for inspiring the most lively discussion of current events whenever she's around, and true enough, the exchange that followed her talk yesterday became a freewheeling coffee shop forum.

"If media is capable of ousting Erap (former President Joseph Estrada), can media now oust GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo) who is even worse than Erap?" a student asked her.

"That's a difficult question. Is Gloria worse than Erap? Hmmm," Apostol answered.

"Being an octogenarian, how do you maintain your energy, beauty and youthful looks? What is your secret? Is it dancing?" was the question posed by an otherwise serious-looking student.

Bicolana in her

"I don't know. Maybe dancing, it must be the Bicolana in me," she said with a broad grin.

Even the verbal exchange between two INQUIRER columnists, former Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz and Manuel L. Quezon III, was not spared.

"Is it ethical for two columnists of the same paper to be hitting each other?" a college instructor wondered.

A Filipina balikbayan from Germany and the United States said she could not understand the criticisms against Ms Arroyo.

"Let GMA rule. She's like Queen Victoria who survived assassination attempts and ruled for 68 years," said the balikbayan and the crowd hissed.

"The difference between Queen Victoria and Gloria is that Queen Victoria did not have a Mike Arroyo and a Garcillano," said a man who grabbed the microphone.

In her lecture, Apostol, who now publishes the Mr. & Ms. monthly glossy, said "media ownership has a lot to do with the way the media—radio, print or TV—reports the news."

"To be beholden to any news source is tragedy for a reporter. To be beholden to any advertiser is tragedy for a newspaper ... The main job of a newspaper is to be a watchdog, not to be anybody's puppy dog," she said.

After spending more than 30 years writing about women's issues and publishing the Mr. & Ms. weekly magazine, Apostol shifted to political journalism by publishing the Mr. & Ms. Special Edition, a weekly that grew out of the 16-page special pullout issue that Mr. & Ms. published on the funeral of martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. in 1983.

Inquirer precursor

The Mr. & Ms. Special Edition led to the Philippine Inquirer, a weekly newspaper that covered the Aquino assassination trial and reported on Marcos' abuses and the emerging opposition. The weekly paper evolved into what is now the Philippine Daily Inquirer which first came out in December 1985.

In 1998, the year the movie star Joseph Estrada became President, Apostol came out with the Pinoy Times, a political tabloid written in Taglish, which exposed the extravagant lifestyle of Estrada and covered extensively his impeachment trial in early 2001. The paper sold hundreds of thousands of copies of its Special Edition which featured photographs of Estrada's mansions, mistresses and purchases.

The Mr. & Ms. Special Edition, the INQUIRER and Pinoy Times have all been credited for helping bring about the two Edsa people power revolutions—the first one, in 1986, toppled Marcos and the second, in 2001, brought down the Estrada administration.

As the 2006 Magsaysay awardee for journalism, literature and creative communication arts, Apostol was recognized for "her courageous example in placing the truth-telling press at the center of the struggle for democratic rights and better government in the Philippines."

'Montessori school' of

From page A1

management, some of the courses being offered by the one-room school.

On Wednesday, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrested the operators of the Emmanuel Montessori College of Charity for requiring their young students to solicit donations without a permit from the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Henry Feratero, the founder of the bogus college, his wife Jenny, and associates Hilda Dinglasan, Sofronia Biag and Rene Leonardo also face charges for operating a school without a license and for child exploitation.

A check with the DSWD, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Commission on Higher Education revealed that the Emmanuel Montessori College of Charity was not licensed to operate as an educational institution, said Elfren Meneses Jr., the chief of the NBI anti-fraud and computer crimes division (AFCCD).

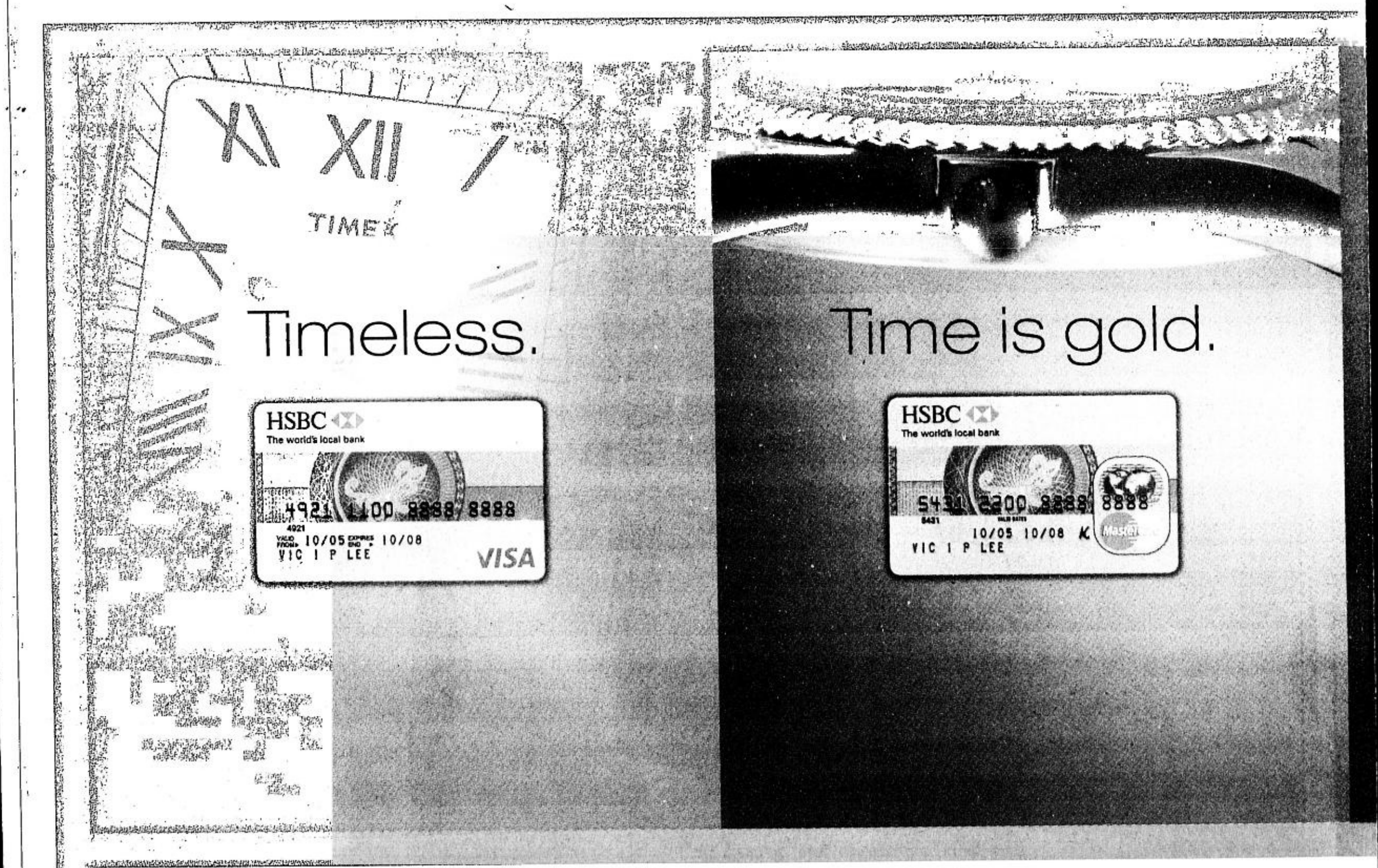
Feratero was also shown to have several pending cases of estafa.

Meneses said the NBI rescued 29 youths from the suspects' three-story building on Burgos Street in Montalban.

According to investigators, Feratero started his operation in Quezon City, recruiting high school graduates by offering them a free education, a college diploma and an opportunity to work abroad.

After 10 months, Feratero disappeared, leaving his students in the lurch. A few months ago, he turned up in Montalban where he allegedly continued his illegal activities, Meneses said.

The school would recruit potential scholars who are then equipped with labeled tin cans for their fund-raising activities. They are then assigned to specific locations in malls and schools where they are required to stay from 8



f beggars busted

a.m. to 8 p.m. At the end of the day, they remit their earnings to Feratero.

The students were either "stay-in" or "stay-out."

"The stay-in students, or those who lived in the school, were also required to make the rounds of the markets to ask for vegetables and food, aside from their usual fund-raising duties," said investigator Waldo Palattao Jr.

Some of the suspects' 48 victims, with ages ranging from 14 to 20, appeared at the NBI yesterday. They said they were made to sign consent letters that said they agreed to pay P15,000 "once they leave the school."

In his defense, Feratero said their intentions for the students were pure.

"We did not do anything wrong," he said, and even appealed to the public for help.

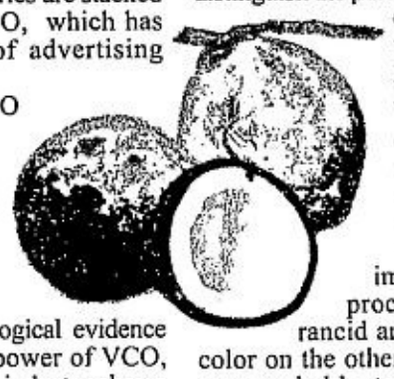
"We just transferred to Montalban, so our classrooms are not finished yet," Feratero said.

TIN CANS familiar in malls turn out to be the syndicate's way of collecting donations to "charity."
REM ZAMORA

How to check a Real Virgin Coconut Oil?

VIRGIN COCONUT OIL, OR VCO, ARE everywhere nowadays. The shelves of supermarkets, drugstores and groceries are stacked with different brands of VCO, which has received a large amount of advertising and exposure recently.

But, what is VCO for? VCO is reputed to help boost the immune system, provides an immediate source of energy, helps prevent bacterial infection, makes the skin healthy, and aids in promoting weight loss.



Recent findings and epidemiological evidence tend to support the healing power of VCO, and because of this, the VCO industry shows so much promise that it could help the entire Philippine coconut industry bring in millions of pesos in export sales to the country. As the brands and variants of VCO continue to increase, consumers are at loss on how to determine pure VCO from low-quality VCO.

Here are 3 simple tips to help you distinguish the pure VCO from the low-quality ones:

Look at it. Look at the color of the oil. Pure VCO is colorless and crystal clear, unlike impure variants that have sediments and have a slight yellowish shade. Sediments indicate an improper or wrong filtering process, and may already be rancid and spoiled. The yellowish color on the other hand, means that the oil was probably taken from copra – dried coconut husks – and not from fresh and mature coconuts. Do not be surprised if the VCO solidifies at cold temperatures (less than 24°C). This is normal. The principle is, if it does not freeze, it is fake. Take note though that the solidified VCO must be pure white. Any discoloration means the VCO is impure.

Taste it. VCO should have ONLY a slight coconut smell. Oil that has a strong coconut scent indicates impurity, and was probably extracted from copra. VCO that has NO smell, on the other hand is no longer "virgin" as all sorts of unknown additives and chemicals have probably been added to remove the smell. Any different smell aside from a slight coconut scent may mean that the oil has turned rancid already and is unfit for use.

Smell it. The criteria for the taste test is similar to that of the smell test. Pure VCO has only a SLIGHT coconut taste, while oils that have strong taste mean that it came from copra. VCO with no taste again indicate further processing and chemical additives that have made it impure.

ABS Herbs, the leader in the herbal supplements industry, has always been at the forefront of informing consumers and Filipinos about the benefits of using herbal supplements. And with the emergence of the VCO market, ABS Herbs again showcases a quality product, Grace Virgin Coconut Oil. Not only does Grace VCO comply with industry standards, it surpasses them. Extracted through the "cold-pressed" method – where no heat is applied. Grace VCO contains the least amount of moisture possible, since no chemicals were added and because no heat was applied to it during processing, it can truly be called "virgin" coconut oil. Grace VCO also contains 55% lauric acid, which is higher than most VCOs out in the market today.

ABS Herbs Grace Virgin Coconut Oil is now available in all Mercury Drug and Watsons branches, leading drugstores and selected supermarkets nationwide. For details, please call telephone numbers 926-3252 or 926-6304, or visit www.abs-herbs.com.ph.

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OPINION

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Official initiative

WHEN THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS ISSUED its decision on Sigaw ng Bayan's petition for a referendum on the basis of a people's initiative to amend the Constitution, something it described as a tangential observation became a hot topic. Wrote the Comelec, "Thus, even if the signatures in the instant Petition appear to meet the required minimum per centum of the total number of registered voters, of which every legislative district is represented by at least three per centum of the registered voters therein, still the Petition cannot be given due course since the Supreme Court categorically declared RA 6735 as inadequate to cover the system of initiative on amendments to the Constitution."

EDITORIAL

What did the Comelec mean? Opponents of the people's initiative have been quick to assume that the Comelec was trying to smoothen the way for a referendum—should the Supreme Court overturn the Comelec decision, that is. Interviewed on TV, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos snapped, "If I say, 'Even if you are ugly, I love you,' does it mean you are ugly?"

Well, yes. Otherwise, why bring up ugliness? Or state that a petition the Comelec said it didn't want to consider "appeared" to meet a minimum constitutional requirement, which it had no time to establish or validate in the first place?

This is an important thing to suggest, the same critics say, because of what Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban wrote in his separate opinion in Santiago vs. Comelec. "Until and unless an initiatory petition can show the required number of signatures—in this case, 12 percent of all the registered voters in the Philippines with at least 3 percent in every legislative district—no public funds, may be spent and no government resources may be used in an initiative to amend the Constitution," Panganiban stated. "Verily, the Comelec cannot even entertain any petition absent such signature. Indeed, there is a right way to do the right thing at the right time and for the right reason."

The debate, which shifts to the Supreme Court, hinges on that statement by the present Chief Justice: Has Sigaw ng Bayan and its allies, from the President on down, done the right thing, in the right way, at the right time and for the right reason?

Panganiban further observed that initiatives, like referendums and elections, "are sacred democratic rights of our people to be used as their final weapons against political excesses, opportunism, inaction, oppression and misgovernance; as well as their reserved instruments to exact transparency, accountability and faithfulness from their chosen leaders." But what happens if the very same leaders are at the forefront of an initiative?

Yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo came out strongly, again, for the people's initiative. Her political allies, especially those in the House of Representatives, repeated that message. Which only means that the massed ranks of the administration are behind Sigaw ng Bayan and others who helped gather the signatures for the Charter change initiative.

It seems wrong to caricature not only Panganiban, but also his reasoning. The deliberations of a judge are not the same as the manner politicians superficially tackle issues. A judge thrives on nuance; a politician lives on sound-bites. We believe it a profound disservice to the Supreme Court that anyone can boldly predict how it will decide on anything. It puts forward the suspicion of collusion between the executive and the judiciary. It raises expectations and skepticism to the extent that whatever the Court decides, neither those who agree or disagree with the final outcome will even bother to read the justices' opinion.

That being said, the insertion of an irrelevant observation by the Comelec is indeed pregnant with meaning. The public can only hope that the Supreme Court justices will deliberate on the issue, if it's brought to their attention, not with undue haste but also not without regard for what might be attempted while they are trying to make up their minds. Such as pushing forward with a referendum, in the hope of making the Court's decision moot and academic.

One thing is sure: The people's initiative involves more than the people. It's as much an official initiative as anything else.

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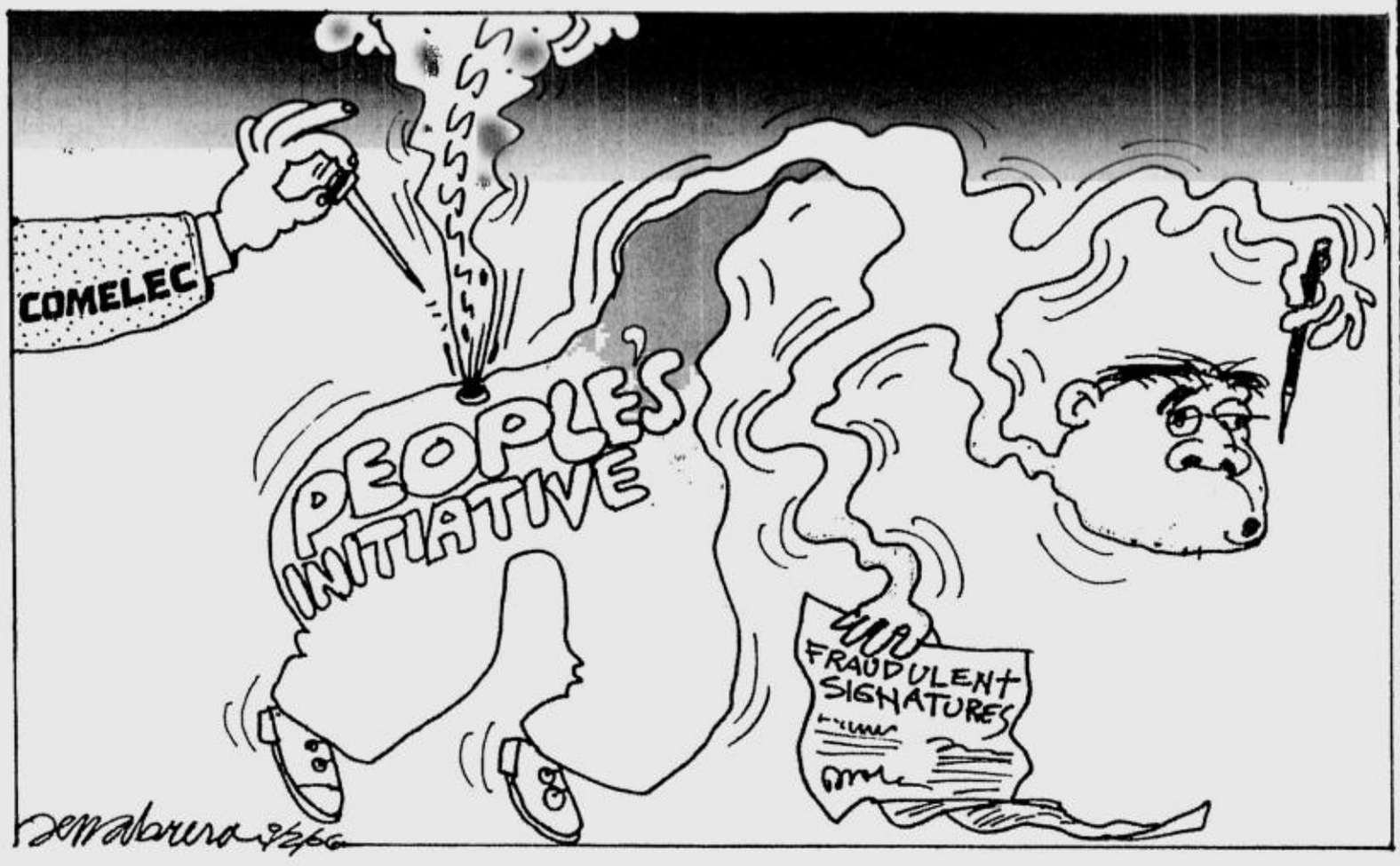

Some suggested constitutional changes

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IF WE CAN FINALLY AGREE ON THE CORRECT method to be used in amending or revising the Constitution, following are some unsolicited suggestions on the changes that I believe should be considered.

1. Prescribe educational qualifications for all elective officials, from the President of the Philippines to the local officials. The qualifications should be appropriate for the various offices, strict in the case of high positions and liberal for the lower ones. Exceptions should be made for those with special aptitudes although without adequate formal schooling. Blas F. Ople, for example, had more book-learning than many of his colleagues with impressive degrees from foreign universities.

A person cannot be permanently appointed as a simple clerk in the classified civil service without passing the corresponding civil service examination. Appropriate qualifications are prescribed in the Constitution for the appointive members of the Supreme Court and the rest of the judiciary, the Constitutional Commissions and the Office of the Ombudsman. But the only academic requirement for the President of the Philippines and many ignoramuses in Congress is the ability to read and write.

2. Abolish the party-list membership in the House of Representatives. I have no objection to some present party-list representatives insofar as their abilities and official conduct are concerned; in fact, I admire them for their courage and civic spirit in raising many issues of public interest ignored by many district representatives. But the point is that, unlike them, they have not been elected by the people. This is contrary to the democratic tenet that elective officials must enjoy the confidence of the voters they represent.

It is the party that is elected, and it is the party that elects its representatives. The law even prohibits the disclosure of their names during the campaign, to be revealed only if their party obtains the required number of votes cast for it and not its nominees. In other words, the party-list representative so chosen is elected **indirectly** and **anonymously**. The voters may like the party for its policies and platform but not its unknown nominee. Nevertheless, he is forcibly thrust upon them like a *fait accompli* without their knowledge and consent.

3. Discontinue the term limits. This innovation in the present Constitution may be good, but its implementation is defective; in fact, it is a mockery of the fundamental law. An elective official should be allowed to remain in office as long as he enjoys the confidence of the voters, but this should not be pushed to dangerous or absurd extremes. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's unprecedented election for four terms caused the amendment of the US Constitution limiting his successors to only one reelection. And there is the extraordinary record of Sen. Strom Thurmond who served in the US Senate for 48 years and retired at the age of 100.

The idea behind the term limitations is twofold: to avoid an incipient dictatorship and to give other candidates a chance to occupy the monopolized position. In this country, however, these objectives are frustrated with the popular elective official retiring temporarily, his wife or child or some other close relative serving as his substitute until he is qualified to run again. During his required retirement, he remains in control of the office he has apparently relinquished, indirectly enjoys its perquisites and influence, and continues to dispense political favors through his shadow replacement. The Constitution has only given him and other people like him the opportunity to deride and violate its mandate with their constituents' knowledge and consent.

4. Art. IV, Sec. 5 provides: "Dual allegiance of citizens is inimical to the national interest and shall be dealt with by law." As now interpreted, it is different from dual citizenship which is in fact allowed and even encouraged under the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003. I respectfully disagree. I submit that dual citizenship necessarily imports dual allegiance and should also be disallowed.

I recognize the status of the person born to Filipino parents in the United States who becomes a citizen of our country *jure sanguinis* and of the United States *jure soli*. As a dual citizen, he owes his two countries a common and diluted dual allegiance that is "inimical to the national interest." Despite the involuntariness of his status, he would be no different from a Filipino who intentionally rejects this country in favor of a foreign state but is now welcomed back with open arms by a forgiving government. Both of them have dual allegiance.

A dual citizen would be like a person with two wives, one he loves and the other he needs. Morally and legally, he should be made to choose between the two instead of allowing him to enjoy a convenient arrangement with both of them as a shared husband. That is the questionable kind of relationship allowed by our Constitution that I feel deserves more objective reflection and less sentimentality.

Let's think more about improving the Constitution after we decide on how to change it.

NPA-landlords alliance

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

DATA FROM THE 2000 FAMILY INCOME and Expenditure Survey (FIES) show that roughly three-fourths (76.4 percent) of the country's poor families live in rural areas—or put another way, the percentage of rural families who are poor (41.2 percent) is more than three times the percentage of urban families who live below the poverty line (13.2 percent). Although the data are already six years old, they are actually the only available ones, so we have to make do with them. The succeeding (2003) FIES uses a sample design which no longer allows for urban-rural poverty comparisons. It is hoped that this design flaw will be corrected for the 2006 FIES—assuming that there will be one, of course, since the government is still operating on a 2005 budget, thanks to the failure of our legislators to discharge their main responsibility.

Nevertheless, the good news is that rural poverty incidence, at 41.2 percent, was less than what it was in 1988, when the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) became law. But the bad news is that the reduction in rural poverty incidence proceeded at an excruciatingly slow pace—all of five percentage points achieved in 12 years (46.3 percent in 1988). Contrast this with urban poverty incidence reduction over the same 12 year period—from 30.1 percent to 13.2 percent; or even with the national average—from 40.2 percent to 27.5 percent.

During that 12-year period, not only the CARP was instituted to address the problems of rural poverty and development. There was also the Agricultural Modernization Program, as well as the rural infrastructure projects (farm-to-market-roads, etc.) and other much-ballyhooed packages. That poverty reduction proceeded at a snail's pace in spite of these programs and projects reflects their ineffectiveness.

The period since 2001 hasn't seen too much improvements in farmers' lives as well. A case in point is what is happening to farmers in the Bondoc Peninsula, 68 of whom have sought help and shelter from the Department of Agrarian Reform and are currently living in the DAR compound. Their story illustrates what many Filipino farmers have to contend with in their attempt to get what is rightfully theirs under the CARP law: resistance from landowners, which take the form of legal(istic) as well as extra-legal resistance; resistance from the New People's Army; some kind of government schizophrenia where agencies ignore/defy each other or take different sides, or are either afraid to uphold the law or too weak to uphold the law or themselves ignore the law.

But let's hear their story:

1. They have been long-time tenants (some second-generation)/occupants in a coconut plantation (2,800 ha) owned by the Matias family in Quezon province.

2. Their sharing arrangements were 70-30 in favor of the landlord. This (share tenancy) has by the way been outlawed since 1968, and the arrangements should have been leasehold, with the farmers keeping 75 percent of the crop and paying the landowner 25 percent. Unfortunately, the farmers were unaware of this (obviously the fault of government agencies—DAR, DA) until fairly recently, when peasant organizers apprised them not only of their rights, but apparently even of CARP, of which they also were ignorant.

3. The farmers filed for CARP inclusion with DAR, which gave their case due course (Notice of Coverage). And that's when their troubles started: Threats, forcible removal from the land by armed goons, charges of trespassing. The farmers fought back by filing charges against their landlord with the DAR Adjudication Board.

4. The landowner then took harsher steps: When the farmers decided to harvest, accompanied by the Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (Maro) and some military, they were stopped at gunpoint by the landowner's men from taking out their harvest (with total disregard for the authority of the government or the military). The Maro and the soldiers were unable/unwilling to do anything more than get the landowner's assurance that the coconuts would not be touched until the issue was resolved.

5. The landowner then filed two charges of qualified theft against each of the farmers (remember that the coconuts were left in situ) and the Maro, although not the soldiers. Quezon City Assistant Prosecutor Elizabeth San Juan-Mata recommended the dismissal of the charges, but her boss reversed her, with no explanation (apparently in spite of a call from Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez). The RTC judge accepted the case, in spite of a Supreme Court decision to lower courts not to touch agrarian reform-related cases.

6. Now the kicker: bail was set at P30,000 for each of the charges, or P60,000 for each of the 68 farmers, while the value of the 5,000 coconuts "stolen"/harvested amounts to only P19,500 in total.

The 68 farmers can't post bail (the equivalent of two years' income). They don't want to be arrested, because other farmers from other *haciendas* are languishing in jail. That is why they came to Manila to ask for protection from the DAR.

Where do the NPA elements come in? They have sided with the landowners (who pay them taxes) in this controversy, although there are also some ideological issues—the reaffirmists (NPA) versus the rejectionists (peasant organizers).

A case with strange twists: imperial Manila trying to help the farmers, but it is no match for the local landowners and their goons who control the local justice system. The NPA, who is supposed to defend the peasants, is defending the landlords. Only in the Philippines

Can SC ignore 6.3-M verified signatures?

THE BATTLE FOR CHARTER CHANGE SHIFTS next week to the Supreme Court when Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines file their petition after the Comelec refused to take cognizance of it. The poll body argued that the Court's 1997 decision declared RA 6735, the law governing people's initiative, was insufficient and incomplete. The battle has become terribly exciting, as this issue is now in the people's consciousness. The most recent survey said 56 percent, or over half of Filipinos, want a change in our failed political system.

The petitioners are not expected to dwell too much on legalities. Instead, they could bank on the fact that 6.3 million signatures verified by local election registrars in the 79 districts (out of the 10 million gathered signatures still being verified) cannot be ignored, as they fulfill the condition set down in the Constitution. The petitioners will doubtless seek to persuade the Court to "revisit" its 1997 decision inasmuch as that was not decisive enough to permanently enjoin the Comelec from acting on the new initiative petition. The motion for reconsideration in the Santiago vs Comelec decision produced a 6-6 tie on RA 6735's adequacy. But most importantly, there's the argument that if the country twice ousted a sitting President with just a fraction of the number of people who signed the initiative, the more the SC cannot ignore the 6.3 million verified signatories.

The momentum for Charter change is here and this is what the opponents are afraid of.

* * *

The 48th presentation of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards last Thursday, Aug. 31, which coincided with the 99th birth anniversary of the late President in whose honor they were set up by the Rockefeller Brothers in 1957, was a joyous celebration of the new Asian heroes in various fields. That night the Cultural Center of the Philippines was packed mainly by followers and members of Gawad Kalinga, who were there to cheer as their leader, Antonio Meloto, and GK, represented by Francisco Padilla, shared the Award for Com-

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

munity Leadership. It was the first time in the Award's history that an organization bagged this category—a much-deserved honor for GK.

* * *

I was there with other media persons to revel in the award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts for the much-loved founder and first chair of INQUIRER, Eggie Duran Apostol. Those of us who had worked with her in Mr. & Ms. Magazine after Ninoy Aquino's assasination in 1983 and in the first decade of INQUIRER felt happy to share in her moment of glory. Eggie, resplendent in an orange native dress matched by the gold tint in her hair, typically was light and humorous in her acceptance speech, most especially when she said that "what I like most about the award is the money." She then giggled and the audience giggled back. But lest she be misunderstood, she added that since her late husband Peping had left her "enough," she was donating her entire P2.5 million prize to the Foundation for Worldwide People Power. The FWWPP, which Eggie and a few other citizens founded some years back, seeks to bring "quality education" to our public schools, starting with raising citizens' awareness about their sad condition and getting them involved in the "education revolution."

Afterwards, her brother, former Sorsogon City Mayor Fernando Duran, quipped to her that with that announcement she had effectively preempted all her relatives' attempts to ask her for *balato*.

* * *

Last Tuesday, the Ateneo School of Government, under its academic director Dr. Dennis Gonzalez, and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, represented by Klaus Preschle, launched in Makati City a very interesting book-manual, titled "How to Win an Election: Lessons from the Experts." The book, edited by former INQUIRER reporter Chay Florentino Hofilena and written by veteran political writers, is a complete how-to manual intended mainly for neophytes. It takes them through the entire election process—from making that brave decision to throw one's hat into the political ring to the campaign and election, the canvassing of votes and proclamation of the winner. The book is also a comprehensive review of various aspects of practical politics, such as the strategies, including shaping one's image; the pitfalls, such as contending with cheating and the huge expenses; and handling various pressure groups such as the *lagay*-prone media. But instead of being just a cut-and-dried treatise it draws on the actual experience of a dozen veteran politicians, which makes the book come alive.

* * *

For the book launch, the sponsors invited three politicians—South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes, Naga Mayor Jesse Robredo and Marawi City Mayor Omar Ali—as well as political image-shapers Yoly Ong of Campaigns & Grey, who handled Raul Roco's campaign, and Malou Tiquia of Publicus, who handled Mar Roxas' senatorial campaign. Newsbreak writer Glenda Gloria was political commentator while TV personality Cheche Lazaro hosted the dialogue.

A prime topic was how to survive cheating. In a milieu where there's rampant cheating, the consideration seemed to be "how to cheat well" and outsmart the others. For instance, Fuentes, a two-term House member before she went for the governorship, said she thought that after one has won elections five times, this wouldn't be a problem anymore, but it still is. A lawyer, Fuentes said that since 1992 her camp has had to learn "how to make it difficult for people to cheat us." She also said that being a woman executive in a province where machismo prevails is not an advantage. She has to constantly prove she's "braver than the men" and she strives to lead battalion commanders "rather than be led by them." *(To be continued)*

Defending oceans and environments

JUST IN TIME FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF Coastal Protection Month and preceding the first National Marine Protected Area Summit in the country, the Greenpeace ship MY Esperanza arrived yesterday in Cebu City, the last stop in the Philippine leg of her global "Defending our Oceans" expedition.

The voyage around the world's oceans, says Greenpeace, aims "to highlight the wonders of, and the environmental threats to, the world's oceans. (The ship) will also campaign for the establishment of a global network of marine reserves."

In Cebu, Greenpeace is supporting the work of its partner in advocacy, Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation (CCEF) in their call for the establishment of more marine reserves. The Esperanza arrives in the city from world-renowned, community-managed Apo Island Marine Reserve in Negros Oriental. Many new and emerging marine reserves in Cebu and the rest of the country follow the blueprint of the Apo Island experience.

"Marine reserves are our and our oceans' future. The benefits that they give to the oceans are benefits that will be enjoyed by many coastal communities, as healthy oceans provide sustainable livelihoods and resources," said lawyer Rose-Liza Eisma Osorio, CCEF executive director.

Scientists recognize the Philippine archipelago as the world's center of marine biodiversity, but the country's rich marine ecosystem is also among the world's most severely threatened. In her tour of the Philippines, the Esperanza has been witness to both the desperation of marine ecosystems and coastal communities and the viable future that these face once long-term solutions are implemented and enforced.

* * *

GREENPEACE reports that since the ship's arrival, "she has been witness to the various threats to the oceans, particularly pollution. In Manila, the Esperanza drew attention to the alarming plastic pollution in Manila Bay. Plastics together with various industrial chemicals and domestic sewage are suffocating the bay's once productive waters. The Esperanza's early response in assisting the Philippine Coast

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Guard and other organizations in the Petron Solar 1 oil-slick disaster which has devastated Guimaras Island and other parts of Central Visayas has been crucial in helping focus the world's attention to the massive environmental catastrophe. The ship has also actively taken part in community protests in Rapu Rapu Island in Albay where toxic mine pollution from Lafayette's mining operations is destroying marine ecosystems, endangering vulnerable and important species like the whale shark, and ruining the livelihoods of poor coastal communities."

Greenpeace is campaigning for 40 percent of the world's oceans to be protected by marine reserves in the high seas. "At present, only a tiny area of ocean (0.01 percent) is protected from increasingly destructive human activity," said Greenpeace Southeast Asia campaigner Daniel Ocampo on board the Esperanza. "The wealth of local experiences with regard to the benefits of ocean protection is one of the key aspects that Greenpeace wants to highlight in the Esperanza's year-long 'Defending our Oceans' tour. These will serve as examples of how similar reserves in international waters in the high seas are the key solution to the global oceans crises."

* * *

MEANTIME, Greenpeace, through Southeast Asia toxic campaigner Beau Baconguis, recently released a statement on the DENR's approval of the final phase of Lafayette's "test run," which the environmental organization has called "a sham."

The statement is reprinted in full:

"From the start, Greenpeace has been very disappointed with the DENR's (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) decision granting Lafayette a 30-day test-run despite findings that environmental lapses on the part of the company were responsible for the toxic spills during its first few months of operations. Now, the terms of the third phase of this so-called test-run proves without doubt that it is a complete sham designed to pave the way for Lafayette's full operations.

"The decision to allow Lafayette to resume operations has obviously already been made even before the test run started. This is a shameless theatrical display conjured by the DENR and Lafayette, at the expense of the environment and livelihoods of people who depend on the integrity of the marine ecosystem around Rapu Rapu for their survival. Greenpeace maintains that Lafayette's mining operations will pollute the island's surrounding fragile marine environment. Last Aug. 24, Greenpeace released a report that extremely high levels of the heavy metals were found in water samples from Rapu Rapu Island. Cadmium, copper and zinc were found to be at levels more than a hundred times higher than background levels for river water in water samples taken from Mirikpitik Creek, Rapu Rapu Island on Aug. 2.

* * *

"BUT instead of addressing the issue of contamination directly, Lafayette has instead cried sabotage over incidents of fish kills which occurred during their test run. To this day, however, they have yet to prove this allegation. Moreover, the disturbing lack of transparency during the conduct of the test run also remains an issue that the DENR and Lafayette have yet to address.

"The recent confirmation of the presence of whale sharks or *butandings* in the Albay Gulf also underscore what the region is bound to lose in the face of Lafayette's continuing toxic onslaught on the pristine fishing grounds around Rapu Rapu Island."

When the government's regulatory agencies fail to do their job, who will stand between those who would exploit the environment and our natural resources for gain, and the environment and the ordinary people who depend on it for survival?

The error of the war on terror

ISRAEL'S FAILURE TO SUBDUE HEZBOLLAH demonstrates the many weaknesses of the war-on-terror concept. One weakness is that even if the targets are terrorists, the victims are often innocent civilians, and their suffering reinforces the terrorist cause.

In response to Hezbollah's attacks, Israel was justified in wanting to destroy Hezbollah and to protect itself against the threat of missiles on its border. However, Israel should have taken greater care to minimize collateral damage. The civilian casualties and material damage inflicted on Lebanon inflamed Muslims and world opinion against Israel and converted Hezbollah from aggressors to heroes of resistance. Weakening Lebanon has also made it more difficult to rein in Hezbollah.

Another weakness of the war-on-terror concept is that it relies on military action and rules out political approaches. Israel withdrew from Lebanon and then from Gaza unilaterally, rather than negotiating political settlements with the Lebanese government and the Palestinian authority. The strengthening of Hezbollah and Hamas was a direct consequence of that approach. The war-on-terror concept stands in the way of recognizing this fact because it separates "us" from "them" and denies that our actions may shape their behavior.

A third weakness is that the war-on-terror concept lumps together different political movements that use terrorist tactics. It fails to distinguish between Hamas, Hezbollah, al-Qaida or the Sunni insurrection and the Mahdi militia in Iraq. Yet all these terrorist manifestations are different and require different responses. Neither Hamas nor Hezbollah can be treated merely as targets in the war on terror because they have deep roots in their societies; yet profound differences exist between them.

Looking back, it is easy to see where Israeli policy went wrong. When Mahmoud Abbas was elected president of the Palestinian Authority, Israel should have gone out of its way to strengthen him and his reformist team.

WORLD VIEW

George Soros

When Israel withdrew from Gaza, the former head of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, negotiated a six-point plan on behalf of the Quartet for the Middle East (Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations). It included opening crossings between Gaza and the West Bank, an airport and seaport in Gaza, opening the border with Egypt, and transferring the greenhouses abandoned by Israeli settlers into Arab hands. None of the six points was implemented.

This contributed to Hamas' electoral victory. The Bush administration, having pushed Israel to hold elections, then backed Israel's refusal to deal with a Hamas government. The effect has been to impose further hardship on the Palestinians.

Nevertheless, Abbas was able to forge an agreement with the political arm of Hamas for the formation of a unity government. It was to foil this agreement that the military branch of Hamas, run from Damascus, engaged in the provocation that brought a heavy-handed response from Israel—which in turn incited Hezbollah to further provocation, opening a second front. That is how extremists play off against each other to destroy any chance of political progress.

Israel has been a participant in this game and President Bush bought into this flawed policy, uncritically supporting Israel. Events have shown that this policy leads to an escalation of violence. The process has advanced to the point where Israel's unquestioned military superiority is no longer sufficient to overcome the negative consequences of its policy. Israel is now more endangered in its existence than it was at the time of the Oslo Agreement. Similarly, the US has become less safe since President Bush declared war on terror.

The time has come to realize that today's policies are counterproductive. There will be no end to the vicious circle of escalating violence without a political settlement of the Palestine question. In fact, the prospects for engaging in negotiations are better now than they were a few months ago. Israelis must realize that a military deterrent is not sufficient on its own. And Arabs, having redeemed themselves on the battlefield, may be more willing to entertain a compromise.

Strong voices argue that Israel must never negotiate from a position of weakness. They are wrong. Israel's position is liable to become weaker the longer it persists on its present course. Similarly Hezbollah, having tasted the sense but not the reality of victory (and egged on by Syria and Iran) may prove recalcitrant.

But that is where the difference between Hezbollah and Hamas comes into play. The people of Palestine yearn for peace and relief from suffering. The political—as distinct from the military—wing of Hamas must be responsive to their desires. It is not too late for Israel to encourage and deal with an Abbas led Palestinian unity government as the first step toward a better balanced approach. What is missing is a US government that is not blinded by the war-on-terror concept. ***Project Syndicate***

George Soros, a financier and philanthropist, is author of "The Age of Fallibility: Consequences of the War on Terror."

Out of the toy closet

I AM FEMALE AND I COLLECT TOYS. MY PASSION FOR TOYS is much stronger than my resolve to conceal what makes me whole.

For two years, I had to deceive the sales clerks at toy sections of department stores. I made them believe I was ignorant about toys to erase their suspicion that the toys were really for me and not for a nephew who was celebrating his birthday or a son who was at home waiting for me. Little did they know that I was far more knowledgeable about the subject than all of them combined. I had to restrain myself from correcting wrong information they fed the kids and the parents who ultimately made kiddie toy dreams come true by paying for the toys. I had to go through the masquerade every time I did my weekly toy run. Had I been honest from the start, I could have saved myself from the tormenting effects of a lie.

YOUNG BLOOD

Maricar Virtudazo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

Toy collecting is a pastime almost exclusively associated with kids and males, two groups to which I obviously don't belong.

Some years back, toys were just fun objects given to kids to keep them busy while the adults went about their daily chores. Toys were the kids' best friends, until they entered puberty and turned their attention to far more interesting things. Over the years, the concept of toys (not the toys themselves) has evolved to capture what was then an untapped market comprised by men who seemed unable to move on to the stage known as adulthood, and who had money to spare.

It did not take long for a new breed of toy collectors to emerge. They are those who view toys as investments that can be used as a hedge against inflation. Toys are bought and sold based on speculation rather than the enjoyment they bring. Future profit fuels the desire to collect. Ebay.com has become the market where trading is conducted and prices determined. As the value of toys soar, so does the number of collectors who get caught up in their own greed. I believe they have morphed into hoarders and scalpers. It's all business and nothing more.

Of course, there are still the true-blue toy collectors who are passionate about toys as much as they are attached to their childhood memories. Each glance at a toy takes them on a trip down memory lane, and they almost never want to come back.

Others who were deprived of toys when they were kids have turned out to be true-blue collectors in their adult life. Satisfying the inner child in them closes the chapter of their deprived childhood.

Finally, there are those who just jump on to the toy collecting bandwagon. It takes a little convincing to make them start a toy collection, and even less to make them give it all up. They're neither here nor there—not even in the middle. Some of them may become true collectors in the future, but I have my doubts.

Where does a female toy collector fit in this seemingly male-dominated world of toys? My answer: In the sidelines. Let's face it, women my age are expected to conform to the norms of the society by engaging in womanly activities. I have always been a conformist, but what happens after I'm done with cooking, shopping and the occasional trip to the beauty salon and foot spa? Surely there must be something else a woman can do after she has carried out her duties as sister/daughter/aunt/girlfriend/wife?

I chose toy collecting, and to add fuel to the flame, I chose to collect action figures (sorry, Barbie).

My love affair with toys can be traced back to the 1980s when toys were meant to be played with and not displayed on shelves where kids can only gaze and marvel at them from a distance. My father, one of the early overseas Filipino workers, would bring home toy cars and toy soldiers as a way to bond with his two daughters. Bonding meant racing Matchbox cars and gunning down G.I. Joes using a plastic bowling ball. I suppose my father just bought the toys that were popular at that time. No gender issue involved there, whatsoever.

This went on for years, but just like any other love affair, it had to end when I reached my teens. I handed over my toys to my brother who ended up mutilating them. I know my toys are in a better place now.

Because of the influence of TV shows, comic-based movies and cartoons, my love affair with toys was revived when I hit 26. I was not contented with just watching Tom Welling in "Smallville," I had to take him home with me. I could never be part of the Simpson family, so I made them part of mine.

Today it doesn't matter if they take up space in my room, the members of the Justice League are always welcome. I believe they can always squeeze themselves in, next to the Fantastic Four and the X-Men.

After the shock (caused by my revelation) has subsided, I'm quite confident that the toy collecting community will be ready to accept females and understand that not all of us who collect toys have questionable sexuality. I am female and I collect toys. Others should learn to deal with it.

Maricar Virtudazo, 29, is a writer for an Internet start-up company.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Poor, but not beggars

"The arms of poverty grip not only minimum wage earners, but also those who earn more than the minimum wage. Though we're poor, we're not beggars, [so] don't give us alms. Give workers what's due them and their families."

—Kilusang Mayo Uno Secretary General Jose Maglunsod, reacting to the P25-wage increase in Metro Manila

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Disappointing headline and hair-splitting

I WRITE TO OBJECT TO THE headline "Finally, Apo's Jim Paredes gives up on RP" (PDI, 8/20/06) I have no idea how the editors came up with such a headline based on Gerry Lirio's interview with me, or any interview I have ever done in my life. It caused me stress and has sadly upset my family, friends and a lot of other people. I feel that I have been made a poster boy of gloom by the insensitive, calloused *(sic)*, and pathetic editor who thought of the headline.

I am not one to trash the Philippines just to feel good about migrating. In a country already reeling from so much self-inflicted wounds and pessimism, journalism like this is the last thing we should expect from the INQUIRER. I am, to say the least, very disappointed with the newspaper. Sure, I expressed disappointment with the politics of the country just like everyone else, but to say I have "finally" given up on the Philippines is to put it mildly, a naked lie. It seems that the one who thought of this headline feels the best thing this country needs is a daily fix of despair and gloom.

More correctly, I have always said I would fight another day. Every day in Sydney, I wake up to discover the things that work well and wonder how we can do it back home.

I believe the truth will set us free, but sadly, there is also power in falsehood. Apparently it sells more than good news.

I remember reading an analogy about spreading falsehood, comparing it to going on top of a windy hill with a feather pillow and a knife. While there, slash the pillow and let all the feathers fly out to where the wind takes them. If a newspaper wishes to make amends about a false report later on, it becomes as futile and impossible as picking up all the feathers again to restore the reputation of anyone.

Other strange facts on the article: I was never a member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board; and APO did not sing "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo" in the concerts.

I thank God that there are those who saw through this mean-spirited headline and wrote letters of support. While the INQUIRER has started "picking up the feathers" with an online apology, it should do the same on its broadsheet. It is the right, fearless and balanced thing to do if it wants to restore its reputation as a source of truth.

—JIM PAREDES

This "insensitive, calloused (sic) and pathetic editor" who wrote the headline is forced to respond to Jim Parades' angry rant and hair-splitting only because he resorted to name-calling and attributed ill motives to the headline.

With due respect to our publisher, the editors strongly disagree that the INQUIRER owed Paredes an apology. While Paredes may not have said so in direct quotes, the sense of Gerry Lirio's interview with him unmistakably delivered one message—he had given up the fight and ran away. Whether he plans to come back to fight another day—as he had promised repeatedly—remains to be seen. Until that happens, the thousands he had inspired with his patriotic songs through two decades are left holding the bag.

Our understanding is that when one migrates to another country, he intends to live, stay and work there for good. He applied for and was granted permanent residence. If permanent residence is not what he had planned in Australia, then he is abusing the generosity of his adopted country and has a lot of explaining to do to immigration authorities.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Paredes painted his own poster of hopelessness and cynicism when he wrote the article "I will return to fight another day" for the Sunday Inquirer Magazine in February and when he was quoted by Chit Estella of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism as saying he was migrating "to take a vacation from being a Filipino."

Neither the INQUIRER headline nor the story indicated it's a crime to leave one's country—even if it means abandoning the fight and the people he led in battle—when he feels he has lost the struggle.

For this reason, we stand by the headline.

—ARTEMIO ENGRACIA JR., News Editor

Paredes' 'Australian vacation' one and the same banana

YOUR NEWS ITEM ON APO Hiking Society's Jim Paredes immigrating to Australia, liking the life there and telling fellow Filipinos to follow their dreams (PDI, 8/20/06) spoiled my weekend.

Not that I know the guy personally, but I've always (up until now) held him in high esteem as one of the true nationalists of our time, someone to look up to and maybe, even to emulate.

I know for sure that he inspired many people of my generation (now in their golden years) and younger generations to love and work for the betterment of this country. Not very many people as financially stable as Paredes care enough for this country to step out of their comfort zones and make a mark (in this case as a "developmental" musician). Paredes did—or so I thought.

As I understand it, Paredes scored the INQUIRER for reporting that he "had given up on the Philippines" when all he said was that he was "sick of all the politics." In my book, that's one and the same banana. I'm almost sure many agree with me. Sad.

I've been abroad many times; and it has always broken my heart to meet talented and mentally gifted Filipinos who have opted to stay away from the Philippines and contribute their skills to other (usually developed) nations' further enrichment. The damage they have wrought to our country by living and working abroad cannot ever be quantified; and the most depressing thing about it is that their number swells by the day. Add Paredes to that list and those he has encouraged to follow suit.

I was supposed to go to Megamall for a concert featuring young bands paying tribute to the Apo Hiking Society. But that was before I found out that one of them had taken a long hike to that proverbial greener pasture.

Pakikinggan ko na lang ang mga patak ng ulan at sasabayan ko ng luha ng "Inang Bayan."

—DORIS S. NUVAL, Knowledge Channel, 5/F Benpres Building, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Malicious conduct of PLM officials

I TAKE STRONG EXCEPTION TO the claims of Maritess A. Barrios-Taran, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Manila's legal counsel in her letter titled "Malicious complaint against PLM officials." (PDI, 8/28/06)

As officers of the law, both Taran and I are duty-bound to correct wrongdoing at every turn and uphold the rule of law. Hence, rather than argue that Dr. Benjamin Tayabas, PLM president, is entitled to "some respect," it is a far better rule that one who holds such an esteemed position of responsibility should be subjected to the highest standards of legal scrutiny. By the same token, it should be mentioned that the suspension of Dr. Esther Jimenez is presently under appeal. I am confident that she will be vindicated by acquittal in due course.

There is nothing malicious about the filing of a criminal complaint in the exercise of a legal duty. Obviously, Taran insists that because he is the president of the university, Tayabas should be allowed some latitude to circumvent express provisions of the University Charter. Now, I ask, who is being preposterous?

As for the ridiculous argument that the previous deanship of Jimenez was not approved by the board, this defective designation was also done by Tayabas, albeit with a different set of board members. With Taran, it seems that Tayabas has established a pattern of continuing disregard for the provisions of the Charter.

There is no law, rule or regulation amending the University Charter (Republic Act 4169). The law therefore requires that all deans are appointed by the Board of Regents, no one else. I can only speculate that a non-existent provision of the University Code was cited by Taran to deliberately mislead and deceive all concerned. There is no such provision in the 2005 University Code approved and ratified by the Board of Regents in November of 2005, as presented by the Committee of Regent Raul I. Goco.

Finally, it is absolutely ridiculous for Taran to claim that the board has not been notified of the complaint against it. In fact, four regents have privately confirmed that the complaint was discussed at considerable length during the meeting of the board on July 11, 2006. One regent claims that the complaint was distributed to the board by Taran herself. In addition, we have made available, upon request of members of the PLM community, copies of the complaint. It is Tayabas and his cohorts who have desperately tried to suppress the circulation of the same. It is the conduct and actuations of Tayabas, Taran and their cohorts that are best described as malicious, preposterous and disrespectful.

—CELIA N. GALZOTE-VALDEZ, counsel for Dr. Esther D. Jimenez, Suite 410 Windsor Tower, Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City

If only given half a chance to be, GMA could be best President ever

LET ME START BY SAYING THAT I come from the same mold as those vehemently opposing President Macapagal-Arroyo and her administration. But, unlike them, I think that the President is a leader whom all of us should admire and respect, not only because of her administrative skills but also because of the kind of person she is. She served as the best social welfare secretary of all time and, I think, she could be the best President if given half a chance to do her job.

Politics in the Philippines is an arena where even the most assiduously honest cannot last an hour being so. Politicians in the Philippines who claim total honesty can only be worse because they add hypocrisy to dishonesty. The President has shown courage and humility by admitting a lapse in judgment—something all of us born on this planet commit at one time or the other. But only the brave and the forthright can admit to a fault. Such an admission becomes a more difficult act if one is President.

Show me a Philippine politician who is totally without fault and with the abilities of Ms Arroyo. The reality, however, is that GMA is the best President we ever had—the lapse in judgment notwithstanding.

To the President's critics who are fond of quoting the Bible, let me quote something in return: "Let those who are without fault cast the first stone."

—NICOLAS B. VARONA, Calbayog City, Western Samar

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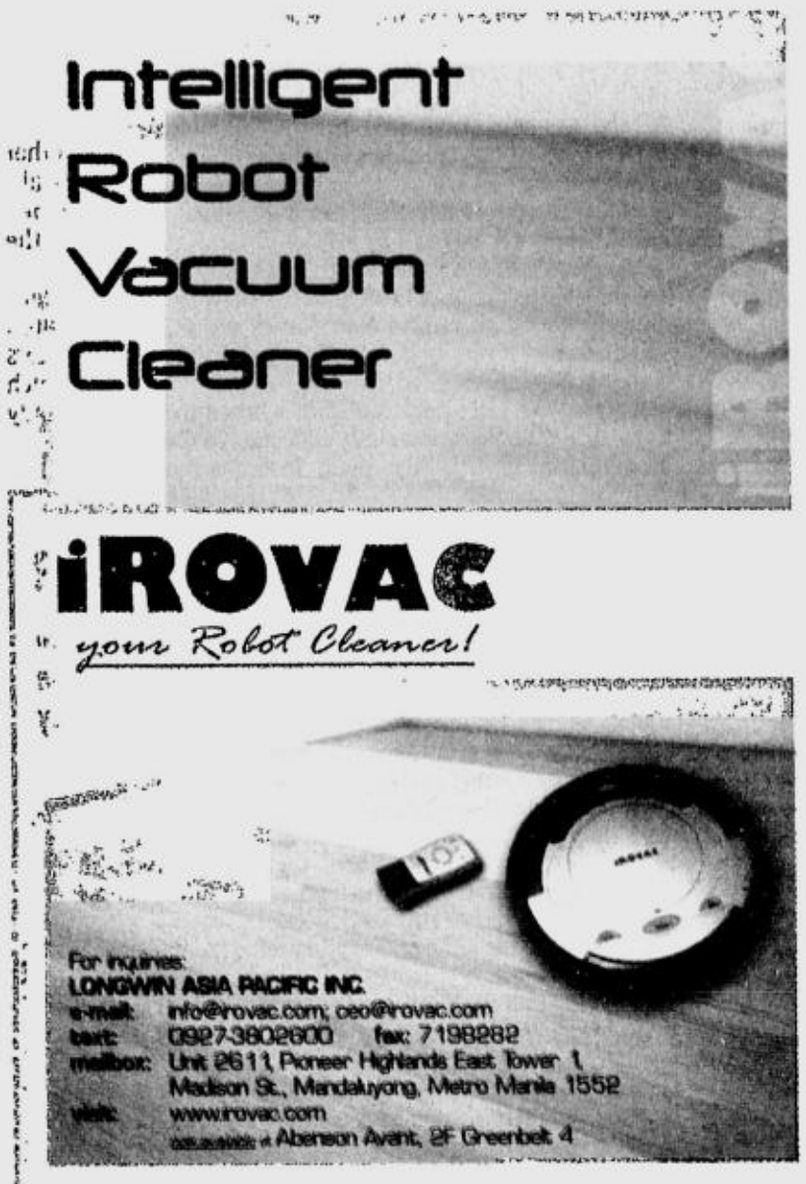

Macalintal in Comelec?

WE FULLY AGREE WITH THE INQUIRER EDITorial last Aug. 10, regarding the call of Romulo Macalintal, President Macapagal-Arroyo's counsel, for the testing and use of the automated counting machines. Indeed, the high court already ruled with finality that the nation would face "the grim prospect of election fraud on a massive scale by means of just a few strokes," what with the finding that the machines are faulty and defective.

Macalintal sought the opinion of some of his colleagues who are similarly active in the practice of election law, namely, Sixto Brillantes Jr., Leila de Lima, Erwin Garcia, Al Agra and myself. We, his colleagues, unanimously and politely disagreed with his view.

Brillantes, who has been demanding daily the resignation of Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Commission on Elections, said that the Comelec would be very happy if the high court agrees with Macalintal. Brillantes is the lawyer of former Sen. Loren Legarda.

De Lima, election lawyer of presidential candidate Raul Roco, said she could not support the position of Macalintal. She pointed out that the view of the INQUIRER is in accordance with the law and the facts. She also stressed that there are more important considerations that should be taken into account.

Garcia observed that the high court found that the counting machines were not only defective. He pointed out that the contract itself was null and void. He stressed that the Supreme Court decision was already final and executory and could no longer be amended or revoked.

While the group was unanimous in disagreeing with the views of GMA's counsel, we believe that Macalintal is acting in good faith. Knowing him and his ways, the group is not ready to impute motives other than honesty in his plea to test the automated counting machines and to use the same if found to be 100-percent accurate. With his legal background, know-how and experience in the practice of election law, GMA's counsel is qualified to be appointed as chair of the Comelec. But in the light of the Garci tapes, it will be a miscalculation for GMA to appoint him because we, his colleagues, know that he is a man of his own and will only act in accordance with his conscience and the law. We hope that GMA commits the mistake.

—PETE QUIRINO-QUADRA, Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila

Can SC ignore 6.3-M verified signatures?

THE BATTLE FOR CHARTER CHANGE SHIFTS next week to the Supreme Court when Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines file their petition after the Comelec refused to take cognizance of it. The poll body argued that the Court's 1997 decision declared RA 6735, the law governing people's initiative, was insufficient and incomplete. The battle has become terribly exciting, as this issue is now in the people's consciousness. The most recent survey said 56 percent, or over half of Filipinos, want a change in our failed political system.

The petitioners are not expected to dwell too much on legalities. Instead, they could bank on the fact that 6.3 million signatures verified by local election registrars in the 79 districts (out of the 10 million gathered signatures still being verified) cannot be ignored, as they fulfill the condition set down in the Constitution. The petitioners will doubtless seek to persuade the Court to "revisit" its 1997 decision inasmuch as that was not decisive enough to permanently enjoin the Comelec from acting on the new initiative petition. The motion for reconsideration in the Santiago vs Comelec decision produced a 6-6 tie on RA 6735's adequacy. But most importantly, there's the argument that if the country twice ousted a sitting President with just a fraction of the number of people who signed the initiative, the more the SC cannot ignore the 6.3 million verified signatories.

The momentum for Charter change is here and this is what the opponents are afraid of.

* * *

The 48th presentation of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards last Thursday, Aug. 31, which coincided with the 99th birth anniversary of the late President in whose honor they were set up by the Rockefeller Brothers in 1957, was a joyous celebration of the new Asian heroes in various fields. That night the Cultural Center of the Philippines was packed mainly by followers and members of Gawad Kalinga, who were there to cheer as their leader, Antonio Meloto, and GK, represented by Francisco Padilla, shared the Award for Com-

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

munity Leadership. It was the first time in the Award's history that an organization bagged this category—a much-deserved honor for GK.

* * *

I was there with other media persons to revel in the award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts for the much-loved founder and first chair of INQUIRER, Eggie Duran Apostol. Those of us who had worked with her in Mr. & Ms. Magazine after Ninoy Aquino's assasination in 1983 and in the first decade of INQUIRER felt happy to share in her moment of glory. Eggie, resplendent in an orange native dress matched by the gold tint in her hair, typically was light and humorous in her acceptance speech, most especially when she said that "what I like most about the award is the money." She then giggled and the audience giggled back. But lest she be misunderstood, she added that since her late husband Peping had left her "enough," she was donating her entire P2.5 million prize to the Foundation for Worldwide People Power. The FWWPP, which Eggie and a few other citizens founded some years back, seeks to bring "quality education" to our public schools, starting with raising citizens' awareness about their sad condition and getting them involved in the "education revolution."

Afterwards, her brother, former Sorsogon City Mayor Fernando Duran, quipped to her that with that announcement she had effectively preempted all her relatives' attempts to ask her for *balato*.

* * *

Last Tuesday, the Ateneo School of Government, under its academic director Dr. Dennis Gonzalez, and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, represented by Klaus Preschle, launched in Makati City a very interesting book-manual, titled "How to Win an Election: Lessons from the Experts." The book, edited by former INQUIRER reporter Chay Florentino Hofilena and written by veteran political writers, is a complete how-to manual intended mainly for neophytes. It takes them through the entire election process—from making that brave decision to throw one's hat into the political ring to the campaign and election, the canvassing of votes and proclamation of the winner. The book is also a comprehensive review of various aspects of practical politics, such as the strategies, including shaping one's image; the pitfalls, such as contending with cheating and the huge expenses; and handling various pressure groups such as the *lagay*-prone media. But instead of being just a cut-and-dried treatise it draws on the actual experience of a dozen veteran politicians, which makes the book come alive.

* * *

For the book launch, the sponsors invited three politicians—South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes, Naga Mayor Jesse Robredo and Marawi City Mayor Omar Ali—as well as political image-shapers Yoly Ong of Campaigns & Grey, who handled Raul Roco's campaign, and Malou Tiquia of Publicus, who handled Mar Roxas' senatorial campaign. Newsbreak writer Glenda Gloria was political commentator while TV personality Cheche Lazaro hosted the dialogue.

A prime topic was how to survive cheating. In a milieu where there's rampant cheating, the consideration seemed to be "how to cheat well" and outsmart the others. For instance, Fuentes, a two-term House member before she went for the governorship, said she thought that after one has won elections five times, this wouldn't be a problem anymore, but it still is. A lawyer, Fuentes said that since 1992 her camp has had to learn "how to make it difficult for people to cheat us." She also said that being a woman executive in a province where machismo prevails is not an advantage. She has to constantly prove she's "braver than the men" and she strives to lead battalion commanders "rather than be led by them." *(To be continued)*

Out of the toy closet

I AM FEMALE AND I COLLECT TOYS. MY PASSION FOR TOYS is much stronger than my resolve to conceal what makes me whole.

For two years, I had to deceive the sales clerks at toy sections of department stores. I made them believe I was ignorant about toys to erase their suspicion that the toys were really for me and not for a nephew who was celebrating his birthday or a son who was at home waiting for me. Little did they know that I was far more knowledgeable about the subject than all of them combined. I had to restrain myself from correcting wrong information they fed the kids and the parents who ultimately made kiddie toy dreams come true by paying for the toys. I had to go through the masquerade every time I did my weekly toy run. Had I been honest from the start, I could have saved myself from the tormenting effects of a lie.

YOUNG BLOOD

Maricar Virtudazo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

Toy collecting is a pastime almost exclusively associated with kids and males, two groups to which I obviously don't belong.

Some years back, toys were just fun objects given to kids to keep them busy while the adults went about their daily chores. Toys were the kids' best friends, until they entered puberty and turned their attention to far more interesting things. Over the years, the concept of toys (not the toys themselves) has evolved to capture what was then an untapped market comprised by men who seemed unable to move on to the stage known as adulthood, and who had money to spare.

It did not take long for a new breed of toy collectors to emerge. They are those who view toys as investments that can be used as a hedge against inflation. Toys are bought and sold based on speculation rather than the enjoyment they bring. Future profit fuels the desire to collect. Ebay.com has become the market where trading is conducted and prices determined. As the value of toys soar, so does the number of collectors who get caught up in their own greed. I believe they have morphed into hoarders and scalpers. It's all business and nothing more.

Of course, there are still the true-blue toy collectors who are passionate about toys as much as they are attached to their childhood memories. Each glance at a toy takes them on a trip down memory lane, and they almost never want to come back.

Others who were deprived of toys when they were kids have turned out to be true-blue collectors in their adult life. Satisfying the inner child in them closes the chapter of their deprived childhood.

Finally, there are those who just jump on to the toy collecting bandwagon. It takes a little convincing to make them start a toy collection, and even less to make them give it all up. They're neither here nor there—not even in the middle. Some of them may become true collectors in the future, but I have my doubts.

Where does a female toy collector fit in this seemingly male-dominated world of toys? My answer: In the sidelines. Let's face it, women my age are expected to conform to the norms of the society by engaging in womanly activities. I have always been a conformist, but what happens after I'm done with cooking, shopping and the occasional trip to the beauty salon and foot spa? Surely there must be something else a woman can do after she has carried out her duties as sister/daughter/aunt/girlfriend/wife?

I chose toy collecting, and to add fuel to the flame, I chose to collect action figures (sorry, Barbie).

My love affair with toys can be traced back to the 1980s when toys were meant to be played with and not displayed on shelves where kids can only gaze and marvel at them from a distance. My father, one of the early overseas Filipino workers, would bring home toy cars and toy soldiers as a way to bond with his two daughters. Bonding meant racing Matchbox cars and gunning down G.I. Joes using a plastic bowling ball. I suppose my father just bought the toys that were popular at that time. No gender issue involved there, whatsoever.

This went on for years, but just like any other love affair, it had to end when I reached my teens. I handed over my toys to my brother who ended up mutilating them. I know my toys are in a better place now.

Because of the influence of TV shows, comic-based movies and cartoons, my love affair with toys was revived when I hit 26. I was not contented with just watching Tom Welling in "Smallville," I had to take him home with me. I could never be part of the Simpson family, so I made them part of mine.

Today it doesn't matter if they take up space in my room, the members of the Justice League are always welcome. I believe they can always squeeze themselves in, next to the Fantastic Four and the X-Men.

After the shock (caused by my revelation) has subsided, I'm quite confident that the toy collecting community will be ready to accept females and understand that not all of us who collect toys have questionable sexuality. I am female and I collect toys. Others should learn to deal with it.

Maricar Virtudazo, 29, is a writer for an Internet start-up company.

Defending oceans and environments

JUST IN TIME FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF Coastal Protection Month and preceding the first National Marine Protected Area Summit in the country, the Greenpeace ship MY Esperanza arrived yesterday in Cebu City, the last stop in the Philippine leg of her global "Defending our Oceans" expedition.

The voyage around the world's oceans, says Greenpeace, aims "to highlight the wonders of, and the environmental threats to, the world's oceans. (The ship) will also campaign for the establishment of a global network of marine reserves."

In Cebu, Greenpeace is supporting the work of its partner in advocacy, Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation (CCEF) in their call for the establishment of more marine reserves. The Esperanza arrives in the city from world-renowned, community-managed Apo Island Marine Reserve in Negros Oriental. Many new and emerging marine reserves in Cebu and the rest of the country follow the blueprint of the Apo Island experience.

"Marine reserves are our and our oceans' future. The benefits that they give to the oceans are benefits that will be enjoyed by many coastal communities, as healthy oceans provide sustainable livelihoods and resources," said lawyer Rose-Liza Eisma Osorio, CCEF executive director.

Scientists recognize the Philippine archipelago as the world's center of marine biodiversity, but the country's rich marine ecosystem is also among the world's most severely threatened. In her tour of the Philippines, the Esperanza has been witness to both the desperation of marine ecosystems and coastal communities and the viable future that these face once long-term solutions are implemented and enforced.

* * *

GREENPEACE reports that since the ship's arrival, "she has been witness to the various threats to the oceans, particularly pollution. In Manila, the Esperanza drew attention to the alarming plastic pollution in Manila Bay. Plastics together with various industrial chemicals and domestic sewage are suffocating the bay's once productive waters. The Esperanza's early response in assisting the Philippine Coast

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Guard and other organizations in the Petron Solar 1 oil-slick disaster which has devastated Guimaras Island and other parts of Central Visayas has been crucial in helping focus the world's attention to the massive environmental catastrophe. The ship has also actively taken part in community protests in Rapu Rapu Island in Albay where toxic mine pollution from Lafayette's mining operations is destroying marine ecosystems, endangering vulnerable and important species like the whale shark, and ruining the livelihoods of poor coastal communities."

Greenpeace is campaigning for 40 percent of the world's oceans to be protected by marine reserves in the high seas. "At present, only a tiny area of ocean (0.01 percent) is protected from increasingly destructive human activity," said Greenpeace Southeast Asia campaigner Daniel Ocampo on board the Esperanza. "The wealth of local experiences with regard to the benefits of ocean protection is one of the key aspects that Greenpeace wants to highlight in the Esperanza's year-long 'Defending our Oceans' tour. These will serve as examples of how similar reserves in international waters in the high seas are the key solution to the global oceans crises."

* * *

MEANTIME, Greenpeace, through Southeast Asia toxic campaigner Beau Baconguis, recently released a statement on the DENR's approval of the final phase of Lafayette's "test run," which the environmental organization has called "a sham."

The statement is reprinted in full:

"From the start, Greenpeace has been very disappointed with the DENR's (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) decision granting Lafayette a 30-day test-run despite findings that environmental lapses on the part of the company were responsible for the toxic spills during its first few months of operations. Now, the terms of the third phase of this so-called test-run proves without doubt that it is a complete sham designed to pave the way for Lafayette's full operations.

"The decision to allow Lafayette to resume operations has obviously already been made even before the test run started. This is a shameless theatrical display conjured by the DENR and Lafayette, at the expense of the environment and livelihoods of people who depend on the integrity of the marine ecosystem around Rapu Rapu for their survival. Greenpeace maintains that Lafayette's mining operations will pollute the island's surrounding fragile marine environment. Last Aug. 24, Greenpeace released a report that extremely high levels of the heavy metals were found in water samples from Rapu Rapu Island. Cadmium, copper and zinc were found to be at levels more than a hundred times higher than background levels for river water in water samples taken from Mirikpitik Creek, Rapu Rapu Island on Aug. 2.

* * *

"BUT instead of addressing the issue of contamination directly, Lafayette has instead cried sabotage over incidents of fish kills which occurred during their test run. To this day, however, they have yet to prove this allegation. Moreover, the disturbing lack of transparency during the conduct of the test run also remains an issue that the DENR and Lafayette have yet to address.

"The recent confirmation of the presence of whale sharks or *butandings* in the Albay Gulf also underscore what the region is bound to lose in the face of Lafayette's continuing toxic onslaught on the pristine fishing grounds around Rapu Rapu Island."

When the government's regulatory agencies fail to do their job, who will stand between those who would exploit the environment and our natural resources for gain, and the environment and the ordinary people who depend on it for survival?

The error of the war on terror

ISRAEL'S FAILURE TO SUBDUE HEZBOLLAH demonstrates the many weaknesses of the war-on-terror concept. One weakness is that even if the targets are terrorists, the victims are often innocent civilians, and their suffering reinforces the terrorist cause.

In response to Hezbollah's attacks, Israel was justified in wanting to destroy Hezbollah and to protect itself against the threat of missiles on its border. However, Israel should have taken greater care to minimize collateral damage. The civilian casualties and material damage inflicted on Lebanon inflamed Muslims and world opinion against Israel and converted Hezbollah from aggressors to heroes of resistance. Weakening Lebanon has also made it more difficult to rein in Hezbollah.

Another weakness of the war-on-terror concept is that it relies on military action and rules out political approaches. Israel withdrew from Lebanon and then from Gaza unilaterally, rather than negotiating political settlements with the Lebanese government and the Palestinian authority. The strengthening of Hezbollah and Hamas was a direct consequence of that approach. The war-on-terror concept stands in the way of recognizing this fact because it separates "us" from "them" and denies that our actions may shape their behavior.

A third weakness is that the war-on-terror concept lumps together different political movements that use terrorist tactics. It fails to distinguish between Hamas, Hezbollah, al-Qaida or the Sunni insurrection and the Mahdi militia in Iraq. Yet all these terrorist manifestations are different and require different responses. Neither Hamas nor Hezbollah can be treated merely as targets in the war on terror because they have deep roots in their societies; yet profound differences exist between them.

Looking back, it is easy to see where Israeli policy went wrong. When Mahmoud Abbas was elected president of the Palestinian Authority, Israel should have gone out of its way to strengthen him and his reformist team.

WORLD VIEW

George Soros

When Israel withdrew from Gaza, the former head of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, negotiated a six-point plan on behalf of the Quartet for the Middle East (Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations). It included opening crossings between Gaza and the West Bank, an airport and seaport in Gaza, opening the border with Egypt, and transferring the greenhouses abandoned by Israeli settlers into Arab hands. None of the six points was implemented.

This contributed to Hamas' electoral victory. The Bush administration, having pushed Israel to hold elections, then backed Israel's refusal to deal with a Hamas government. The effect has been to impose further hardship on the Palestinians.

Nevertheless, Abbas was able to forge an agreement with the political arm of Hamas for the formation of a unity government. It was to foil this agreement that the military branch of Hamas, run from Damascus, engaged in the provocation that brought a heavy-handed response from Israel—which in turn incited Hezbollah to further provocation, opening a second front. That is how extremists play off against each other to destroy any chance of political progress.

Israel has been a participant in this game and President Bush bought into this flawed policy, uncritically supporting Israel. Events have shown that this policy leads to an escalation of violence. The process has advanced to the point where Israel's unquestioned military superiority is no longer sufficient to overcome the negative consequences of its policy. Israel is now more endangered in its existence than it was at the time of the Oslo Agreement. Similarly, the US has become less safe since President Bush declared war on terror.

The time has come to realize that today's policies are counterproductive. There will be no end to the vicious circle of escalating violence without a political settlement of the Palestine question. In fact, the prospects for engaging in negotiations are better now than they were a few months ago. Israelis must realize that a military deterrent is not sufficient on its own. And Arabs, having redeemed themselves on the battlefield, may be more willing to entertain a compromise.

Strong voices argue that Israel must never negotiate from a position of weakness. They are wrong. Israel's position is liable to become weaker the longer it persists on its present course. Similarly Hezbollah, having tasted the sense but not the reality of victory (and egged on by Syria and Iran) may prove recalcitrant.

But that is where the difference between Hezbollah and Hamas comes into play. The people of Palestine yearn for peace and relief from suffering. The political—as distinct from the military—wing of Hamas must be responsive to their desires. It is not too late for Israel to encourage and deal with an Abbas led Palestinian unity government as the first step toward a better balanced approach. What is missing is a US government that is not blinded by the war-on-terror concept. ***Project Syndicate***

George Soros, a financier and philanthropist, is author of "The Age of Fallibility: Consequences of the War on Terror."

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Poor, but not beggars

"The arms of poverty grip not only minimum wage earners, but also those who earn more than the minimum wage. Though we're poor, we're not beggars, [so] don't give us alms. Give workers what's due them and their families."

—Kilusang Mayo Uno Secretary General Jose Maglunsod, reacting to the P25-wage increase in Metro Manila

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Disappointing headline and hair-splitting

I WRITE TO OBJECT TO THE headline "Finally, Apo's Jim Paredes gives up on RP" (PDI, 8/20/06) I have no idea how the editors came up with such a headline based on Gerry Lirio's interview with me, or any interview I have ever done in my life. It caused me stress and has sadly upset my family, friends and a lot of other people. I feel that I have been made a poster boy of gloom by the insensitive, calloused *(sic)*, and pathetic editor who thought of the headline.

I am not one to trash the Philippines just to feel good about migrating. In a country already reeling from so much self-inflicted wounds and pessimism, journalism like this is the last thing we should expect from the INQUIRER. I am, to say the least, very disappointed with the newspaper. Sure, I expressed disappointment with the politics of the country just like everyone else, but to say I have "finally" given up on the Philippines is to put it mildly, a naked lie. It seems that the one who thought of this headline feels the best thing this country needs is a daily fix of despair and gloom.

More correctly, I have always said I would fight another day. Every day in Sydney, I wake up to discover the things that work well and wonder how we can do it back home.

I believe the truth will set us free, but sadly, there is also power in falsehood. Apparently it sells more than good news.

I remember reading an analogy about spreading falsehood, comparing it to going on top of a windy hill with a feather pillow and a knife. While there, slash the pillow and let all the feathers fly out to where the wind takes them. If a newspaper wishes to make amends about a false report later on, it becomes as futile and impossible as picking up all the feathers again to restore the reputation of anyone.

Other strange facts on the article: I was never a member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board; and APO did not sing "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo" in the concerts.

I thank God that there are those who saw through this mean-spirited headline and wrote letters of support. While the INQUIRER has started "picking up the feathers" with an online apology, it should do the same on its broadsheet. It is the right, fearless and balanced thing to do if it wants to restore its reputation as a source of truth.

—JIM PAREDES

This "insensitive, calloused (sic) and pathetic editor" who wrote the headline is forced to respond to Jim Parades' angry rant and hair-splitting only because he resorted to name-calling and attributed ill motives to the headline.

With due respect to our publisher, the editors strongly disagree that the INQUIRER owed Paredes an apology. While Paredes may not have said so in direct quotes, the sense of Gerry Lirio's interview with him unmistakably delivered one message—he had given up the fight and ran away. Whether he plans to come back to fight another day—as he had promised repeatedly—remains to be seen. Until that happens, the thousands he had inspired with his patriotic songs through two decades are left holding the bag.

Our understanding is that when one migrates to another country, he intends to live, stay and work there for good. He applied for and was granted permanent residence. If permanent residence is not what he had planned in Australia, then he is abusing the generosity of his adopted country and has a lot of explaining to do to immigration authorities.

Paredes painted his own poster of hopelessness and cynicism when he wrote the article "I will return to fight another day" for the Sunday Inquirer Magazine in February and when he was quoted by Chit Estella of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism as saying he was migrating "to take a vacation from being a Filipino."

Neither the INQUIRER headline nor the story indicated it's a crime to leave one's country—even if it means abandoning the fight and the people he led in battle—when he feels he has lost the struggle.

For this reason, we stand by the headline.

—ARTEMIO ENGRACIA JR., News Editor

LETTERS — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Paredes' 'Australian vacation' one and the same banana

YOUR NEWS ITEM ON APO Hiking Society's Jim Paredes immigrating to Australia, liking the life there and telling fellow Filipinos to follow their dreams (PDI, 8/20/06) spoiled my weekend.

Not that I know the guy personally, but I've always (up until now) held him in high esteem as one of the true nationalists of our time, someone to look up to and maybe, even to emulate.

I know for sure that he inspired many people of my generation (now in their golden years) and younger generations to love and work for the betterment of this country. Not very many people as financially stable as Paredes care enough for this country to step out of their comfort zones and make a mark (in this case as a "developmental" musician). Paredes did—or so I thought.

As I understand it, Paredes scored the INQUIRER for reporting that he "had given up on the Philippines" when all he said was that he was "sick of all the politics." In my book, that's one and the same banana. I'm almost sure many agree with me. Sad.

I've been abroad many times; and it has always broken my heart to meet talented and mentally gifted Filipinos who have opted to stay away from the Philippines and contribute their skills to other (usually developed) nations' further enrichment. The damage they have wrought to our country by living and working abroad cannot ever be quantified; and the most depressing thing about it is that their number swells by the day. Add Paredes to that list and those he has encouraged to follow suit.

I was supposed to go to Megamall for a concert featuring young bands paying tribute to the Apo Hiking Society. But that was before I found out that one of them had taken a long hike to that proverbial greener pasture.

Pakikinggan ko na lang ang mga patak ng ulan at sasabayan ko ng luha ng "Inang Bayan."

—DORIS S. NUVAL, Knowledge Channel, 5/F Benpres Building, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Malicious conduct of PLM officials

I TAKE STRONG EXCEPTION TO the claims of Maritess A. Barrios-Taran, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Manila's legal counsel in her letter titled "Malicious complaint against PLM officials." (PDI, 8/28/06)

As officers of the law, both Taran and I are duty-bound to correct wrongdoing at every turn and uphold the rule of law. Hence, rather than argue that Dr. Benjamin Tayabas, PLM president, is entitled to "some respect," it is a far better rule that one who holds such an esteemed position of responsibility should be subjected to the highest standards of legal scrutiny. By the same token, it should be mentioned that the suspension of Dr. Esther Jimenez is presently under appeal. I am confident that she will be vindicated by acquittal in due course.

There is nothing malicious about the filing of a criminal complaint in the exercise of a legal duty. Obviously, Taran insists that because he is the president of the university, Tayabas should be allowed some latitude to circumvent express provisions of the University Charter. Now, I ask, who is being preposterous?

As for the ridiculous argument that the previous deanship of Jimenez was not approved by the board, this defective designation was also done by Tayabas, albeit with a different set of board members. With Taran, it seems that Tayabas has established a pattern of continuing disregard for the provisions of the Charter.

There is no law, rule or regulation amending the University Charter (Republic Act 4169). The law therefore requires that all deans are appointed by the Board of Regents, no one else. I can only speculate that a non-existent provision of the University Code was cited by Taran to deliberately mislead and deceive all concerned. There is no such provision in the 2005 University Code approved and ratified by the Board of Regents in November of 2005, as presented by the Committee of Regent Raul I. Goco.

Finally, it is absolutely ridiculous for Taran to claim that the board has not been notified of the complaint against it. In fact, four regents have privately confirmed that the complaint was discussed at considerable length during the meeting of the board on July 11, 2006. One regent claims that the complaint was distributed to the board by Taran herself. In addition, we have made available, upon request of members of the PLM community, copies of the complaint. It is Tayabas and his cohorts who have desperately tried to suppress the circulation of the same. It is the conduct and actuations of Tayabas, Taran and their cohorts that are best described as malicious, preposterous and disrespectful.

—CELIA N. GALZOTE-VALDEZ, counsel for Dr. Esther D. Jimenez, Suite 410 Windsor Tower, Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City

If only given half a chance to be, GMA could be best President ever

LET ME START BY SAYING THAT I come from the same mold as those vehemently opposing President Macapagal-Arroyo and her administration. But, unlike them, I think that the President is a leader whom all of us should admire and respect, not only because of her administrative skills but also because of the kind of person she is. She served as the best social welfare secretary of all time and, I think, she could be the best President if given half a chance to do her job.

Politics in the Philippines is an arena where even the most assiduously honest cannot last an hour being so. Politicians in the Philippines who claim total honesty can only be worse because they add hypocrisy to dishonesty. The President has shown courage and humility by admitting a lapse in judgment—something all of us born on this planet commit at one time or the other. But only the brave and the forthright can admit to a fault. Such an admission becomes a more difficult act if one is President.

Show me a Philippine politician who is totally without fault and with the abilities of Ms Arroyo. The reality, however, is that GMA is the best President we ever had—the lapse in judgment notwithstanding.

To the President's critics who are fond of quoting the Bible, let me quote something in return: "Let those who are without fault cast the first stone."

—NICOLAS B. VARONA, Calbayog City, Western Samar

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Macalintal in Comelec?

WE FULLY AGREE WITH THE INQUIRER EDITORIAL last Aug. 10, regarding the call of Romulo Macalintal, President Macapagal-Arroyo's counsel, for the testing and use of the automated counting machines. Indeed, the high court already ruled with finality that the nation would face "the grim prospect of election fraud on a massive scale by means of just a few strokes," what with the finding that the machines are faulty and defective.

Macalintal sought the opinion of some of his colleagues who are similarly active in the practice of election law, namely, Sixto Brillantes Jr., Leila de Lima, Erwin Garcia, Al Agra and myself. We, his colleagues, unanimously and politely disagreed with his view.

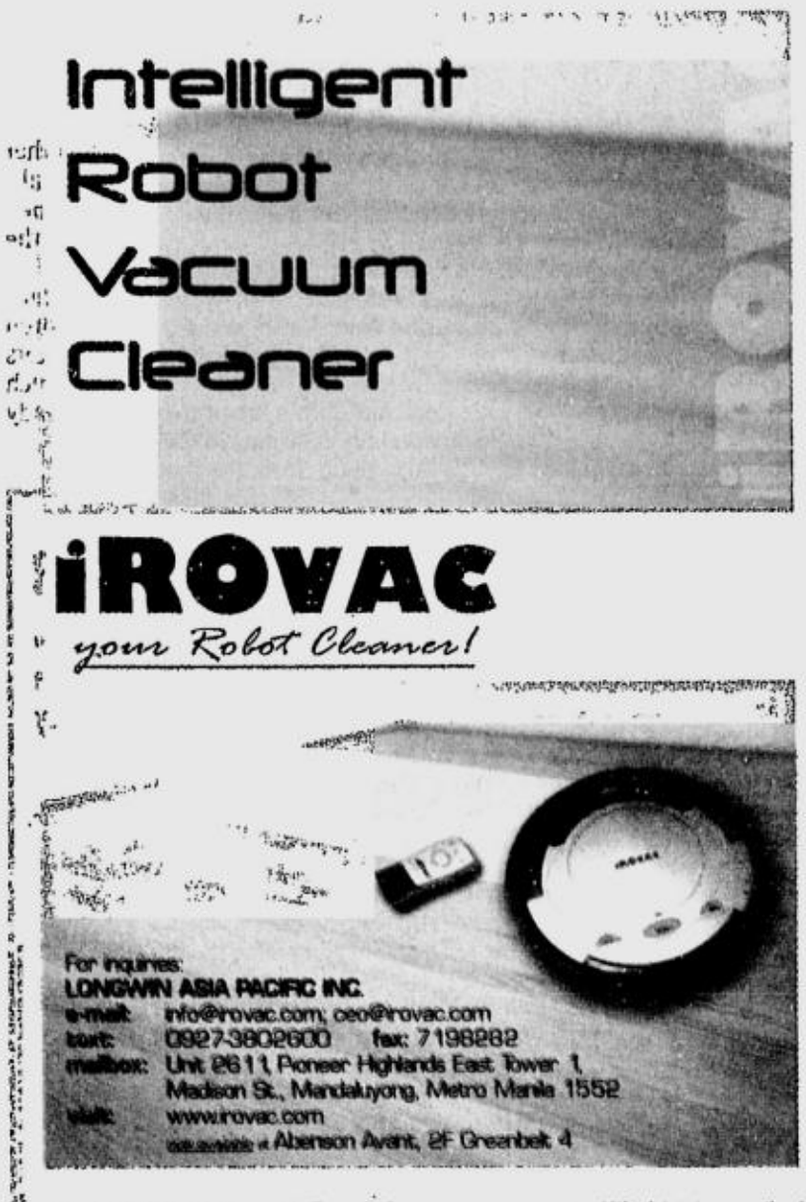
Brillantes, who has been demanding daily the resignation of Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Commission on Elections, said that the Comelec would be very happy if the high court agrees with Macalintal. Brillantes is the lawyer of former Sen. Loren Legarda.

De Lima, election lawyer of presidential candidate Raul Roco, said she could not support the position of Macalintal. She pointed out that the view of the INQUIRER is in accordance with the law and the facts. She also stressed that there are more important considerations that should be taken into account.

Garcia observed that the high court found that the counting machines were not only defective. He pointed out that the contract itself was null and void. He stressed that the Supreme Court decision was already final and executory and could no longer be amended or revoked.

While the group was unanimous in disagreeing with the views of GMA's counsel, we believe that Macalintal is acting in good faith. Knowing him and his ways, the group is not ready to impute motives other than honesty in his plea to test the automated counting machines and to use the same if found to be 100-percent accurate. With his legal background, know-how and experience in the practice of election law, GMA's counsel is qualified to be appointed as chair of the Comelec. But in the light of the Garci tapes, it will be a miscalculation for GMA to appoint him because we, his colleagues, know that he is a man of his own and will only act in accordance with his conscience and the law. We hope that GMA commits the mistake.

—PETE QUIRINO-QUADRA, Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila



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PNP launches war on 'jueteng' again

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—WITH THE START of the "ber" months, expect a cooler weather and a "hotter" Philippine National Police that will go all out in its drive to stop "jueteng."

Director General Oscar Calderon, Philippine National Police chief, said the illegal numbers game enjoys big patronage from September to December.

Gamblers, or even occasional players, wage bigger bets to win more money and spend more during the holidays in the last quarter of the year, he said.

He said this was based on his observations of the underground lottery that the government had failed to lick for decades.

"I'm also afraid that since this is starting to be the 'ber' months, [there would be a resurgence of jueteng] and I don't want to see that. We have learned our lessons from the past and I hope we could devise a good campaign plan based on our experiences," Calderon told the INQUIRER during his visit to this regional police camp on Friday.

Calderon revealed the "ber" phase of the anti-illegal gambling campaign a month since he and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno launched a "no-nonsense" drive against jueteng.

"By the end of September, we will assess how far we have gone. Depending on the results of our operations, we will have to continue to calibrate our actions," he said.

Since the campaign is supported by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Calderon said he expected policemen not to be the only party to bear the brunt of the one-strike policy should they be found protecting, conniving or simply not doing anything to stop jueteng.

"No less than the secretary committed to help me in this campaign so I expect that local officials will be suspended if they will be found operating, protecting these activities," he said.

According to Calderon, jueteng must be stopped because the legal alternative to it, the state-sanctioned small town lottery (STL), has been operating since February.

"We have to stop the illegal activity because we have a thing that's legal. We can't do anything but to protect STL. That's provided by law," Calderon said.

As police chief of Central Luzon where jueteng was strong, Calderon managed to stop it a few months before and after the ouster of former President Estrada in January 2001. However, jueteng, taken over then by small operators, managed a comeback in the run-up to the May 2004 elections.

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, PNP spokesperson, said "persistent reports" sent by text messages, phone calls or written reports showed that jueteng is active in parts of the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Bicol.

"[Calderon] has issued several directives to commanders that by the end of September, all areas should be cleared of jueteng," Pagdilao said.

GALLARDO parting with her hair for Guimaras, although some scientists are discouraging the use of human hair as absorbent because of its slow decomposition. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Ex-Petron worker parts with hair for Guimaras

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—WRITER TINA Gallardo worked for Petron Corp. as a training officer so she had access to her former superiors when the oil slick that hit the waters of Guimaras made the headlines.

Gallardo said they had no idea how they could save Guimaras' turtles and marine life.

So inspired by stories about convicts offering their hair for the clean up effort, Gallardo returned to this city and sent out text messages to invite people to join her shave her head.

About six people, all strangers, answered her plea and came to a local branch of David's Salon on Thursday.

Most of them were aware of news reports that cite the high absorptive quality of hair and feathers in separating crude oil from water. But there are scientists who fear that hair could later become an environmental problem because of their slow rate of decomposition.

Gallardo said the presence of friends and strangers at her shaving-off session was a good sign.

"I hope more people would take part [in the cleanup efforts]. Guimaras needs the whole country," she said.

Two salon stylists took only four minutes to shave her hair, which falls past her shoulders.

Gallardo managed to keep her smile for her laptop's built-in camera, which she set up by her side to document her sacrifice.

"It took me three years to grow my hair, but it takes 10 times that to grow corals. I've never done this before, but I want people to know that every inch counts to save Guimaras," she said.

"I have been there, you see. It is so beautiful and yet its people are so poor... These are white sand areas, you know, so we have to do everything we can to help the clean up [of the oil slick]," she told Gary Buenavista, one of the people who heeded the text invitations.

Buenavista is a Quezon City artist, who is in Baguio for a vacation.

"We've never met before but I thought it was a good idea. I was getting a haircut anyway, so why not shave everything off if it helps," he told the INQUIRER.

Gallardo's own friends also showed up to support her, along with her daughter who studies in a Baguio high school.

Gallardo said Petron and Caltex Philippines, another former employer, knew what she was up to. But she said embarking on a Baguio version of the campaign "did not require their blessings."

It was Caltex that referred her to the story that hair is a good absorbing material for crude oil, she said.

The salon manager said almost all of their branches have been directed to collect shorn hair for the Guimaras cleanup effort, but they never expected people like Gallardo to take the extreme by starting a crusade here.

3 children left alone at home die in fire

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THREE CHILDREN, aged 1, 3 and 5, were burned to death in Alegria, about 115 km southwest of Cebu City, after their house was razed by fire Thursday evening.

SPO2 Juan Cardona, police investigator of Alegria, said the fatalities were the three Lastimoso siblings—Christian, 1; Efrelyn, 3; and Jessa, 5, from Sitio Upper Alangasil, Barangay Madridejos, about 9 km from Alegria town proper.

Their elder sister, Marifel, 7, survived the fire after she was able to run outside the house.

Their parents, identified as Sulpicio and Julia, 46 and 43 years old respectively, were attending the beauty pageant coronation night during a fiesta event in nearby Sitio Lower Alangasil, where one of their daughter was among the contestants.

Cardona said the fire occurred at around 8 p.m. but they were informed about it at almost 10 p.m.

When they arrived in the area, they saw the parents and other siblings, were already hysterical.

Cardona said the policemen were the ones who retrieved the charred bodies.

Based on the account of Marifel, Cardona said the children were sleeping when the sisters woke up to find the fire, which started in the kitchen, already eating up the house.

Firm says it has documents Poro port deal not rigged

THE JOINT VENTURE FIRM THAT operates the Poro Point seaport yesterday said it has documents to prove that two former Bases Conversion and Development Authority officials found the 25-year contract to run the port above board, contrary to charges that it was rigged during the time of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

In a press statement, the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) said documents showed that Rogelio Singson, former BCDA chair and a relative of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, and Florencio Padernal, also former BCDA chair, saw no irregularities in the contract.

"The selection process for a joint venture was as transparent as possible," the BCDA documents quoted Rogelio Singson as saying.

Padernal, according to the statement, also saw that "there was a proper selection process" in awarding the contract to the PPIC.

Brigido Dulay, PPIC legal counsel, said in the statement that the documents "merely confirm what everybody knows—that the deal...was legal, valid and binding."

Dulay, in reaction to an INQUIRER article on Aug. 31, said the BCDA was now preparing a P3.5 million PR program to force the ouster of Bulk Handlers Inc., the BCDA partner in the PPIC.

The BCDA said the allocation was part of its regular communications program.

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SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS

September 2, 2006, Saturday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Launch of OMF Literature's Golden Year Writing Competition (By Invitation) by OMF Literature, Inc.

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Activity Area
Spa Training by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc.

12:00 NN - 5:30 P.M.
Function Room A
27th National Quiz Bee - Manila and Pasay City Division Championship by Quiz Bee Foundation

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Hiyas Children's Books: Story Telling and Author Signing by OMF Literature, Inc.

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Robotics Demonstration by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Dianetics Introductory Lecture by New Era International Publication Aps and the Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Activity Area
More than a Story featuring Ms. Melody Remorca by Bookwagon

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Story Telling by Vibal Publishing House, Inc.

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching by St Pauls

September 3, 2006, Sunday

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
Function Room A
Successful Job Hunting Tips by Cora Doloroso Career Centre

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Corporate Manners with Fashion Show by Cora Doloroso Career Centre

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Book Launching, Film Showing and Presentation of Supreme Sign by Eternal Publication

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Spa Training by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Pistang Panitik
by Anvil Publishing, Inc. & Unyon Ng Mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas/Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo; University of the Philippines Likhaan; UP Institute of Creative Writing; UP Quill; UP UGAT; UP Writers Club; Ateneo de Manila University Press; Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts and Practices (AILAP); De La Salle University Bienvenido Santos Creative Writing Center; University of Sto. Tomas Publishing House; Thomasian Writers Guild; UST Center for Creative Writing and Research

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Modeling for Beginners by Cora Doloroso Career Centre

3:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Activity Area
Bare Hands Reflexology by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Dianetics Introductory Lecture by New Era International Publication Aps and the Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Function Room B
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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

A dead child, a lost livelihood

By Hazel Villa
Naoway Island, Guimaras

THE GRIEF IN THE SMALL bamboo house by the beach of Ali and Jocelyn Castillo is almost mute as husband and wife struggled to explain how they lost their youngest and only son to an asthma attack on Monday.

The child's condition might have been aggravated by fumes from the bunker fuel oil that washed on the shores of the island in the morning of Aug. 12, a day after the tanker MT Solar 1 ran aground off southern Guimaras.

The couple grieves for Alejandro, 2 years and 3 months old, whom they lovingly called Toto Pogi.

The boy arrived dead at the Guimaras Provincial Hospital at 7:30 a.m. of Aug. 28, even as his father vainly did his best to bring him to the hospital in an hour-and-a-half trip by boat and motorcycle from Naoway.

Ali left the house at 5 a.m. that day to try to catch fish and returned an hour later to shouts of "*Si Toto! Si Toto!*" His wife thrust the barely breathing boy at him.

Neighbors awakened by the shouting put the Castillos on the motorboat that sailed to Kupo Wharf in Barangay Sabang, Sibunag town so that they could proceed to the hospital in the capital town of Jordan.

"I was supposed to join them going to the hospital, but I moved so slowly and my swollen tummy was already aching. Ali had to leave me behind," said Jocelyn, who was due to give birth to her fourth child on Sept. 5 .

Bantay Dagat member Eduardo Pelingon, also a resident of the island, had already sent a short message to the ambulance driver of Sibunag town to expect Ali along the way.

Nocturnal asthmatic

Around 7 a.m., the ambulance met Ali, who was carrying Pogi on a motorcycle, at Sabang, and rushed them to the hospital. Doctors declared the boy dead after taking his vital signs.

"All I saw was this flat line beeping on a screen and the doctors and nurses told me they are sorry, but my son is already dead," said the tearful 34-year-old fisherman, a Grade 5 dropout of the Sabang Elementary School.

Dr. Bobby Yoro, hospital chief, said it was "probable" that Pogi died from the oil fumes.

He said the child was a "nocturnal asthmatic" and that his mother was given medicines in the past but she might not have given it to the boy, thinking that he was already all right.

"My son was still dancing on Sunday evening and so we were shocked when we woke up for coffee at 5 a.m. to find him not moving," said Jocelyn, 24, a native of Hinobaan, Negros Occidental.

While Pogi didn't play near the shore after the oil slick arrived, his mother said he could smell the fumes that the wind brought to their house, which water sometimes reached at high tide.

"You will get a headache because of the very bad smell," said Jocelyn, referring to the slick.

Pogi's body was brought home to Naoway the day he died. The white coffin was put in a corner of the house with beach sand for a floor, near the window where neighbors could watch for the vigil just in case it got too crowded inside. At about 4 p.m. Thursday, Pogi was buried at the Naoway Public Cemetery.

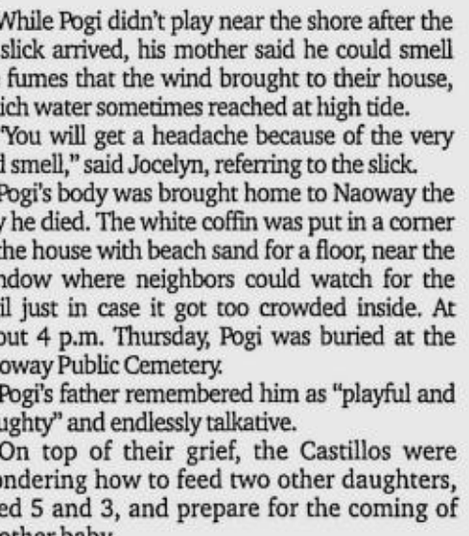
Pogi's father remembered him as "playful and naughty" and endlessly talkative.

On top of their grief, the Castillos were wondering how to feed two other daughters, aged 5 and 3, and prepare for the coming of another baby.

"We were told by some barangay officials to transfer to Negros where we would be far from the fumes but we don't have money for that," said Ali.

What worried him most was that he could not go out to fish since there were few fishes around the waters of Naoway, whose nearest neighbor is the resort island of Nagarao.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources had said two weeks ago that fish from Guimaras and equally affected northern Iloilo were safe to eat. Fish normally swim in deeper areas and away from the slick.



ALEJANDRO "Pogi" Castillo, aged 2 years 3 months, died Aug. 28 after an asthma attack believed to have been triggered by fumes coming from bunker fuel oil on Naoway Island in Sibunag, Guimaras. HAZEL P. VILLA

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Spill turns away competitors from swim fest

160 participants in 2005 down to 12 in Iloilo-Guimaras contest this year

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—IN THE AFTERmath of the country's worst oil spill on Aug. 11, only a few brave men will dare swim the Guimaras-Iloilo Strait.

From 160 swimmers in 2005, the organizers of the 3rd Kayaba Guimaras-Iloilo Cross Channel Swim, are in deep waters after only 12 brave souls registered on deadline Thursday for the annual extreme competitive sport this Sept. 9.

"It used to be that we had to turn away participants from joining, but now we have to beg swimmers to participate. They have been turned off by the oil spill and the advisory of the Department of Health," said Jay Balnig, a radio commentator and project director of Kayaba.

Of the 12 who registered for this year's swim, three were from Guimaras and the rest were from Iloilo City and province.

Aksyon Radyo, of the Manila Broadcasting Company, that organizes the sporting event endorsed by the Department of Tourism was forced to move the registration deadline to Sept. 6 or three days before the actual competition.

The Kayaba Guimaras-Iloilo Cross Channel Swim drew 180 swimmers at its launch in 2003.

The participants have to swim 4.2 nautical miles from Buenavista Wharf in Guimaras to the polluted Iloilo River across the Iloilo Strait.

This year, the open cross channel swim will only be 1.7 nautical miles from Guimaras' Jordan Wharf to the cleaner Fort San Pedro Wharf in Iloilo City.

And still, swimmers say no.

The waters between Guimaras and Iloilo, the path of the cross-channel swim, have been declared free of oil sheen and slick, Capt. Nilo Sazon, squadron commander of the 601st Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, said.

The DOH here has released a health advisory a week after the oil spill that, "repeated exposure to water contaminated with oil may result in dermatitis and irritation/corrosion to the eyes, gingival and mucous membranes."

The parents of swimmers and the swimmers themselves cite the DOH advisory as the main reason they balked from joining the 3rd Kayaba Guimaras-Iloilo Cross Channel Swim, said Balnig.

"This time, the purpose of the competition is to prove that the waters between Guimaras and Iloilo are not affected by the oil slick," said John Paul Tia, chair of the competition.

Balnig said 20 percent of swimmers in the past came from the cities of Bacolod and Cebu, as well as Manila.

"We should promote cross channel swimming in the Iloilo-Guimaras Straits. In 1994, I envisioned it ala British-English Cross Channel swim. I hope that it will bring back the lost glory of Guimaras before the oil spill," said Martin Soriano, the first Ilonggo on record to swim the Guimaras-Iloilo Strait in Aug. 7, 1994.

The term "Kayaba" is from the Hiligaynon word "sag-a," loosely translated as "to drain out water" and "Kaya Mo Ba? (Can you do it?)"

Balnig said the sport is extreme because swimmers must get to the finish line in two hours, or risk being carried by strong currents to the northern shores of Iloilo in the towns of Leganes and Dumangas.

This year's swim on Sept. 9 starts at 12:45 p.m. high tide.

The 2003 champion in the open category swimming—a distance of 4.2 nautical miles—was Cyrus Floro clocking two hours, 46 minutes and 36 seconds (2:46:36).

There was no Kayaba in 2004 because of the elections, said Balnig.

"Even if we end up with only two contestants, we'll continue with the Kayaba just to prove that waters between Iloilo City and Guimaras are clean," Balnig said.

A MAN and his son, prevented from fishing as a result of the massive oil spill in the Guimaras Strait, walk the streets of the province to pursue an alternative form of livelihood—selling handmade replicas of galleons.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Honest cop who returned ₱3.5M cited

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—A police official, who returned the P3.5 million owned by a Canadian killed by members of a syndicate faking gold bars, was cited for his honesty.

Supt. Renato Soria, who was awarded the Kagalingan medal, said he was both humbled and honored by the recognition from his superiors and peers in rites here on Friday. Director General Oscar Calderon, Philippine National Police chief, pinned the medal on Soria.

Soria, the chief of police in Mabalacat, Pampanga, found P2 million in the car of Larry Edward Parker as he led the investigation of the killing of the Canadian. Another P1.5 million was recovered from Parker's hotel room.

Parker was shot and killed by a Salaguinto Gang member whom he met in Barangay Tabun in Mabalacat on April 20.

The syndicate, which is believed to be led by a former Army soldier, has a following among some Aeta in Tarlac and Pampanga.

Asked why he ordered a return of the money to Parker's family, Soria, 50, said: "What will I do with it? That's easy to earn after my retirement. I did not want to waste my 27 years in the police service."

He said he did not entertain temptations of taking the money because it was not his.

Soria, a native of San Nicolas, Pangasinan, met an official of the Canadian Embassy later that week to turn over the money.

In his speech following the awarding rites, Calderon said internal reforms in the police include booting out erring policemen.

"The undesirables would have to go. I would not hesitate to remove them," he said.

He said the PNP is strengthening the police's complaint section to act against policemen who are corrupt, lazy and involved in criminal activities.

In a visit to Pangasinan on Thursday, Calderon said the PNP is undertaking a housing project for its members, 74,000 of whom are still homeless.

In the Ilocos region, two government-owned lots have been identified as sites for the housing project for policemen. He said the policemen would only pay for their houses and not the lots.

Calderon said his administration's thrust is internal reform because he wanted to cleanse the organization of scalawags.

"There are still policemen with criminal minds, but [they represent] less than 2 percent of the 180,000 policemen. We are sincere in cleaning up the ranks. I will be relying on media for prompt reporting on abuses of the police," he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

BSP declares Cebu bank 'insolvent;' gov't takes over

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—EMPLOYEES AND clients of the Bank of Cebu were greeted by signs that the bank's seven branches were closed as the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. placed the bank under receivership.

"We were shocked. When we arrived, the PDIC personnel were already there (at the branch) waiting for us," said a very worried female employee of the Bank of Cebu MEPZ branch in Lapulapu City.

Prior to the takeover, the personnel said they were not aware of any problem of the bank and they have not even received complaints from their depositors.

The employee said they were not yet informed about their status, whether they will be retained or not amid the situation.

The Bank of Cebu has its main office on Osmeña Boulevard corner Manalili Street in Cebu City. Its six branches are located in Carcar, Tabunok in Talisay City, Mandaue City, two in Lapulapu City, including the branch in the Mactan Economic Zone, and Consolacion.

The PDIC, in a statement sent to the INQUIRER, said the estimated insured deposits of the bank amounted to P171.30 million, representing 7,870 accounts. This is about 70 percent of the total deposits amounting to P244.39 million.

Francis Hortelano, supervising information specialist of the PDIC Depositors Assistance Bureau, said the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ordered the takeover of the Bank of Cebu through a resolution passed during its meeting Thursday night.

The Monetary Board issued Resolution No. 1090 ordering the takeover of the Bank of Cebu after the board found that the bank was insolvent.

It also directed the PDIC to conduct an examination of the bank's documents as well as inventory of its assets.

Based on records, the Bank of Cebu was founded in 1961 and its chair of the board was identified as Rodolfo Sabater.

The management of the bank has yet to issue any official statement, but according to Hortelano, the Bangko Sentral has been coordinating with the bank officials.

"We are still giving them 90 days to come with a viable rehabilitation plan, if they still wish to rehabilitate the bank," he added.

In the meantime, the government will pay for the services of the employees and the security guards, who are still required to report for work, Hortelano said.

At least 80 personnel of the PDIC arrived yesterday and were deployed to the different branches to implement the receivership order from the Central Bank.

"What we are trying to do now is to examine the deposit records, come up with the master list of deposits as soon as we can, and then start the payment of insured deposits to all depositors, as soon as we can," Hortelano said.

He said 7,703 depositors are assured of being paid after the PDIC personnel finish the inventory and examination of the bank's records.

The remaining 167 depositors, whose deposits exceed P250,000, will be paid the maximum amount of insurance, with the balance to be paid if PDIC can raise funds through the assets of the bank, Hortelano added.

He urged the depositors to check with the Bank of Cebu branch where their accounts are for schedule of release of their deposits starting next week.

Back-to-basics campaign promotes use of 'banga' in Quezon town

LUCENA CITY—GOVERNMENT OFFIcials did not only inaugurate a village water system in Gumaca town in Quezon province on Wednesday. They also launched a back-to-basics mode of storing potable water in this age of commercialized bottled liquid.

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VILLAGE leaders take home their symbolical "banga" to start their back-to-basics campaign in their barangays.
DELFIN MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

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"We have other similar village-based water system projects in different towns in Lamon Bay area to provide safe drinking water to the population," Tan said.

He said the local government will provide training to association members for the proper operation and maintenance of the water facility. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Spill turns away competitors from swim fest

160 participants in 2005 down to 12 in Iloilo-Guimaras contest this year

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—IN THE AFTERmath of the country's worst oil spill on Aug. 11, only a few brave men will dare swim the Guimaras-Iloilo Strait.

From 160 swimmers in 2005, the organizers of the 3rd Kayaba Guimaras-Iloilo Cross Channel Swim, are in deep waters after only 12 brave souls registered on deadline Thursday for the annual extreme competitive sport this Sept. 9.

"It used to be that we had to turn away participants from joining, but now we have to beg swimmers to participate. They have been turned off by the oil spill and the advisory of the Department of Health," said Jay Balnig, a radio commentator and project director of Kayaba.

Of the 12 who registered for this year's swim, three were from Guimaras and the rest were from Iloilo City and province.

Aksyon Radyo, of the Manila Broadcasting Company, that organizes the sporting event endorsed by the Department of Tourism was forced to move the registration deadline to Sept. 6 or three days before the actual competition.

The Kayaba Guimaras-Iloilo Cross Channel Swim drew 180 swimmers at its launch in 2003.

The participants have to swim 4.2 nautical miles from Buenavista Wharf in Guimaras to the polluted Iloilo River across the Iloilo Strait.

This year, the open cross channel swim will only be 1.7 nautical miles from Guimaras' Jordan Wharf to the cleaner Fort San Pedro Wharf in Iloilo City.

And still, swimmers say no.

The waters between Guimaras and Iloilo, the path of the cross-channel swim, have been declared free of oil sheen and slick, Capt. Nilo Sazon, squadron commander of the 601st Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, said.

The DOH here has released a health advisory a week after the oil spill that, "repeated exposure to water contaminated with oil may result in dermatitis and irritation/corrosion to the eyes, gingival and mucous membranes."

The parents of swimmers and the swimmers themselves cite the DOH advisory as the main reason they balked from joining the 3rd Kayaba Guimaras-Iloilo Cross Channel Swim, said Balnig.

"This time, the purpose of the competition is to prove that the waters between Guimaras and Iloilo are not affected by the oil slick," said John Paul Tia, chair of the competition.

Balnig said 20 percent of swimmers in the past came from the cities of Bacolod and Cebu, as well as Manila.

"We should promote cross channel swimming in the Iloilo-Guimaras Straits. In 1994, I envisioned it ala British-English Cross Channel swim. I hope that it will bring back the lost glory of Guimaras before the oil spill," said Martin Soriano, the first Ilonggo on record to swim the Guimaras-Iloilo Strait in Aug. 7, 1994.

The term "Kayaba" is from the Hiligaynon word "sag-a," loosely translated as "to drain out water" and "Kaya Mo Ba? (Can you do it?)"

Balnig said the sport is extreme because swimmers must get to the finish line in two hours, or risk being carried by strong currents to the northern shores of Iloilo in the towns of Leganes and Dumangas.

This year's swim on Sept. 9 starts at 12:45 p.m. high tide.

The 2003 champion in the open category swimming—a distance of 4.2 nautical miles—was Cyrus Floro clocking two hours, 46 minutes and 36 seconds (2:46:36).

There was no Kayaba in 2004 because of the elections, said Balnig.

"Even if we end up with only two contestants, we'll continue with the Kayaba just to prove that waters between Iloilo City and Guimaras are clean," Balnig said.

A MAN and his son, prevented from fishing as a result of the massive oil spill in the Guimaras Strait, walk the streets of the province to pursue an alternative form of livelihood—selling handmade replicas of galleons.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Honest cop who returned P3.5M cited

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—A police official, who returned the P3.5 million owned by a Canadian killed by members of a syndicate faking gold bars, was cited for his honesty.

Supt. Renato Soria, who was awarded the Kagalingan medal, said he was both humbled and honored by the recognition from his superiors and peers in rites here on Friday. Director General Oscar Calderon, Philippine National Police chief, pinned the medal on Soria.

Soria, the chief of police in Mabalacat, Pampanga, found P2 million in the car of Larry Edward Parker as he led the investigation of the killing of the Canadian. Another P1.5 million was recovered from Parker's hotel room.

Parker was shot and killed by a Salaguinto Gang member whom he met in Barangay Tabun in Mabalacat on April 20.

The syndicate, which is believed to be led by a former Army soldier, has a following among some Aeta in Tarlac and Pampanga.

Asked why he ordered a return of the money to Parker's family, Soria, 50, said: "What will I do with it? That's easy to earn after my retirement. I did not want to waste my 27 years in the police service."

He said he did not entertain temptations of taking the money because it was not his.

Soria, a native of San Nicolas, Pangasinan, met an official of the Canadian Embassy later that week to turn over the money.

In his speech following the awarding rites, Calderon said internal reforms in the police include booting out erring policemen.

"The undesirables would have to go. I would not hesitate to remove them," he said.

He said the PNP is strengthening the police's complaint section to act against policemen who are corrupt, lazy and involved in criminal activities.

In a visit to Pangasinan on Thursday, Calderon said the PNP is undertaking a housing project for its members, 74,000 of whom are still homeless.

In the Ilocos region, two government-owned lots have been identified as sites for the housing project for policemen. He said the policemen would only pay for their houses and not the lots.

Calderon said his administration's thrust is internal reform because he wanted to cleanse the organization of scalawags.

"There are still policemen with criminal minds, but [they represent] less than 2 percent of the 180,000 policemen. We are sincere in cleaning up the ranks. I will be relying on media for prompt reporting on abuses of the police," he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

BSP declares Cebu bank 'insolvent;' gov't takes over

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—EMPLOYEES AND clients of the Bank of Cebu were greeted by signs that the bank's seven branches were closed as the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. placed the bank under receivership.

"We were shocked. When we arrived, the PDIC personnel were already there (at the branch) waiting for us," said a very worried female employee of the Bank of Cebu MEPZ branch in Lapulapu City.

Prior to the takeover, the personnel said they were not aware of any problem of the bank and they have not even received complaints from their depositors.

The employee said they were not yet informed about their status, whether they will be retained or not amid the situation.

The Bank of Cebu has its main office on Osmeña Boulevard corner Manalili Street in Cebu City. Its six branches are located in Carcar, Tabunok in Talisay City, Mandaue City, two in Lapulapu City, including the branch in the Mactan Economic Zone, and Consolacion.

The PDIC, in a statement sent to the INQUIRER, said the estimated insured deposits of the bank amounted to P171.30 million, representing 7,870 accounts. This is about 70 percent of the total deposits amounting to P244.39 million.

Francis Hortelano, supervising information specialist of the PDIC Depositors Assistance Bureau, said the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ordered the takeover of the Bank of Cebu through a resolution passed during its meeting Thursday night.

The Monetary Board issued Resolution No. 1090 ordering the takeover of the Bank of Cebu after the board found that the bank was insolvent.

It also directed the PDIC to conduct an examination of the bank's documents as well as inventory of its assets.

Based on records, the Bank of Cebu was founded in 1961 and its chair of the board was identified as Rodolfo Sabater.

The management of the bank has yet to issue any official statement, but according to Hortelano, the Bangko Sentral has been coordinating with the bank officials.

"We are still giving them 90 days to come with a viable rehabilitation plan, if they still wish to rehabilitate the bank," he added.

In the meantime, the government will pay for the services of the employees and the security guards, who are still required to report for work, Hortelano said.

At least 80 personnel of the PDIC arrived yesterday and were deployed to the different branches to implement the receivership order from the Central Bank.

"What we are trying to do now is to examine the deposit records, come up with the master list of deposits as soon as we can, and then start the payment of insured deposits to all depositors, as soon as we can," Hortelano said.

He said 7,703 depositors are assured of being paid after the PDIC personnel finish the inventory and examination of the bank's records.

The remaining 167 depositors, whose deposits exceed P250,000, will be paid the maximum amount of insurance, with the balance to be paid if PDIC can raise funds through the assets of the bank, Hortelano added.

He urged the depositors to check with the Bank of Cebu branch where their accounts are for schedule of release of their deposits starting next week.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

SONY

The Ultimate TV

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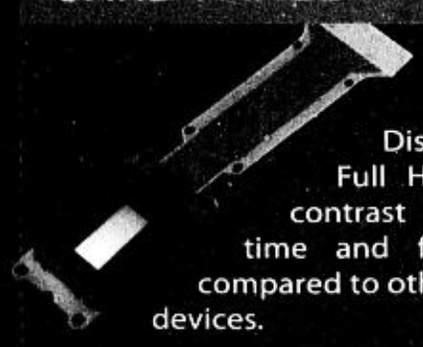

Sony's original "Silicon X-tal Reflective Display (SXRD)" delivers Full HD resolution, greater contrast ratio, faster response time and film-like reproduction compared to other conventional devices.

Each SXRD chip is made with native resolution of 1920 by 1080 pixels which means it is capable of displaying a **2 Megapixel Full HD Resolution**. It produces **smooth and dot less picture** because Sony's chip was created with minimal space between each pixel. Thus, the image seen is more picture and less lines.

An SXRD panel also has a **2.5 ms fast response time** which is important for viewing fast-moving images. You would wonder whether you were watching the shows live.

2.5

BRAVIA ENGINE PRO

BRAVIA ENGINE PRO

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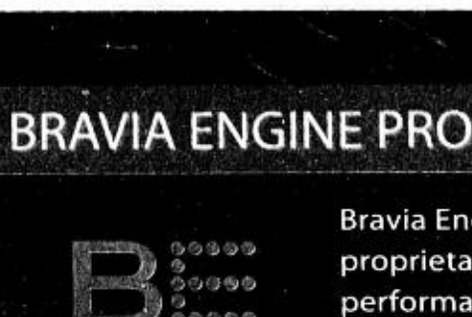

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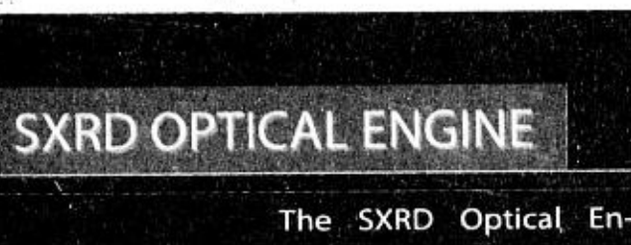

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A plus METRO

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NBI warns against fake peso bills

Old P10 notes used as paper for new money

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) yesterday warned against the proliferation of fake money following the arrest of a couple alleged to be veteran counterfeiters.

The suspects, Sotero Balagoza, alias "Tatay Terry," 62, and Juanita "Nitz" Asis, 51, allegedly used "new techniques" in manufacturing the fake bills. They were arrested during a raid Tuesday at New Haven Village, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Director Ruel Lasala, chief of the NBI National Capital Region Office, said Balagoza, owner of Cyna Printers, has long been suspected of being involved in the production of counterfeit American dollar and Philippine peso bills.

"Operations against counterfeiters led us to Balagoza, one of the alleged main sources of fake bills proliferating in Metro Manila," Lasala said in a press conference yesterday.

The NBI official said that instead of using ordinary paper, Balagoza printed on old P10 bills. "By doing so, he retained the bills' security features like the watermark and security thread," Lasala said. The bills passed scrutiny in some business establishments like malls and supermarkets.

Senior Agent Jonathan Contreras of the NBI NCR said Balagoza sold recently his electronic offset machine that printed 3,000 to 5,000 bills per hour.

"When he learned that our undercover agents could 'finance' him, Balagoza discussed with them the purchase of a new machine," Contreras said.

NBI operatives seized over a hundred counterfeit US dollar and Philippine peso bills, a letterpress machine, various cliches and plates, negatives, ink and other printing paraphernalia.

The suspects will be charged with violation of Article 166 of the Revised Penal Code or Forging Treasury or Bank Notes, or Other Documents Payable to Bearer, Importing, and Uttering Such Forged Notes and Documents.

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Acting Assistant Director Alejandro Tenerife and other NBI officials (foreground) with alleged counterfeiters Sotero Balagoza and Juanita Asis (behind). REM ZAMORA

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Makati City to set up own Intramuros

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TO PRESERVE, ONE MUST FIRST REDISCOVER and remember.

So experts are looking back to the past as Makati City embarks on an ambitious history conservation program that seeks to establish for the financial center its own Intramuros, Manila's historic Walled City.

Academics and cultural experts from Feati University are undertaking a three-month cultural mapping of Barangay Poblacion, considered Makati's "historical seat." The city's first inhabitants settled and flourished in the riverside community.

The Spanish Program for Cultural Cooperation (SPCC) of Instituto Cervantes is giving a P200,000 research grant to Makati for the cultural mapping project.

"The researchers will document historical structures and landmarks and traditional practices and beliefs," City Hall said in a statement.

The Heritage Conservation Program will involve the restoration of old Makati houses and the repaving of streets within Barangay Poblacion to recreate the feel of old Makati. The ambience is expected to be similar to that in the restored Walled City.

BAY CLEANUP
Early birds join coastal cleanup operations on Manila Bay. The project is a joint effort of the Department of Tourism, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. REM ZAMORA

BIR charges ABS-CBN exec with tax law violation

CHARO SANTOS-CONCIO
ROMY HOMILLADA

By DJ Yap and Bayani S. San Diego Jr.

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue charged yesterday ABS-CBN executive vice president and Channel 2 head Charo Santos-Concio with violation of tax laws.

A complaint was filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office charging Concio with violating Section 266 of the Tax Reform Act of 1997 for allegedly failing to produce the financial records of Franmar Corp., of which she is president.

The BIR, through lawyers Philip Mayo and Amado Pagariган, said the ABS-CBN executive failed to present Franmar's books of accounts and other records for 2004.

Franmar has offices at 327-A Olalia Building, Katipunan Road, Quezon City. Records of the Securities and Exchange Commission for 2003-2004 showed that the corporation was among the top 20 stockholders of ABS-CBN.

According to the charge sheet, the BIR ordered Santos-Concio to appear before its legal division on April 27. The subpoena, dated Feb. 27, was served only on April 26.

The order asked Concio to bring, among others, general and subsidiary ledger, sales invoices and official receipts, expense vouchers, and schedule of sales or purchases.

A Letter of Authority was also issued asking her for the documents. The BIR said the documents were needed to verify the company's tax liabilities for the year.

But "despite several personal follow-ups and telephone calls," she allegedly refused to comply, with the order, according to the BIR.

The INQUIRER tried to get in touch with Concio but she was on her way to the United States, according to Maloli K. Espinosa, ABS-CBN's vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations.

Espinosa told the INQUIRER on the phone that Concio's ownership of ABS-CBN stocks "could probably be part of the network's Employee Stock Option Plan (ESOP)," thus, "it's her personal investment."

The SEC website listed Franmar Corp. as among ABS-CBN's top 20 stockholders in 2003 and 2004.

In 2003, Franmar was 19th and the following year, 18th. SEC records listed Franmar's address as La Vista, Quezon City. Santos-Concio lives in La Vista.

Espinosa, however, quoted an "ABS-CBN disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange" which stated that "Franmar is no longer among the network's top 100 stockholders as of July 13, 2006."

The SEC website pointed out that, under the network's ESOP, employees were allowed to purchase shares of stock "without interest through payroll deductions. Shares offered under the plan have been fully paid and issued since 1995."

To fight a criminal, think and act like one

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE INQUIRER FRONT-PAGE STORY yesterday about a man who played the role of a terrorist bomber getting into a plane with all his bomb equipment undetected on a flight from Manila to Davao makes for an interesting spy movie.

But the story is scary in that had he been a real bomber the plane he took would have been blasted in midair.

It's a good thing authorities are now studying all possible tricks terrorists employ to get their message across.

Our authorities should be commended for studying the mind of a terrorist bomber to make air travel safe.

But the safety of sea and land travelers should not be discounted.

The Abu Sayyaf was able to sneak in a bomb into a super ferry two years ago that exploded and killed more than a hundred passengers.

Let's face it: we live in dangerous times. Authorities should not let their guard down.

To fight crime and terrorism, law enforcers should study the ways of criminals and terrorists. The best way is to place one's self in the shoes of a would-be criminal or terrorist.

* * *

If the government wants to be highly successful in fighting crime and terrorism, it should not scrimp on personnel and equipment. It should let money do the talking.

"Money talks" was the principle applied by then Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, the anti-kidnapping task force czar.

He paid people who gave him information on the whereabouts of the most wanted kidnappers.

This is the same principle the US government is applying in helping the government catch Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

People who tipped off the authorities on the whereabouts of Moro terrorists were paid handsomely after they were captured.

If our military and police intelligence funds were only used for its intended purpose—to pay off informants—instead of ending up in the pockets of military or police bigwigs, the fight against crime and insurgency would be a lot easier.

I once gave some pointers to an intelligence officer on how to make use of the grassroots in fighting insurgency.

But it seems my suggestions were ignored.

I don't blame them since members of the intelligence community consider themselves very intelligent.

But don't you think the term "military and police intelligence" is an oxymoron?

* * *

The "X" rating given by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) to deposed President Erap's biopic violated the ex-president's freedom of expression.

The MTRCB's reason for banning the documentary on television smacks of bootlicking.

The censors board says that the docu tended to threaten the country's political stability to destroy the citizenry's trust in the government, and was libelous.

Who says we have a politically stable government, and who says the people have trust in their government?

As to the docu being libelous, let the courts decide that.

The MTRCB insults the intelligence of the citizenry in banning the documentary from being shown on television.

Sipsip lang kayo!

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The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is offering for sale, on "as-is" basis, either in Cash or Installment, an acquired asset described below:

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1. The sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" and "BULK SALE" basis.
2. A bidder's bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's check payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders. The manager's check should have a validity period of 120 days from opening of bids.
3. All proposals shall be submitted on or before September 29, 2006, Friday, at 2:00 p.m.
4. All bidders may offer to buy the property in cash or installment term. Only cash purchase shall be entitled to discounts.
5. Terms of Payment:
   - 5.1 For CASH SALE, the following discount rates apply:
     1. 15%, spot cash
     2. 10%, if paid in full within 30 days from signing of sales documents
     3. 6%, if paid in full within 60 days from signing of sales documents
     4. 3% , if paid in full within 90 days from signing of sales documents
   - 5.2 For INSTALLMENT SALE (discounts are not applicable):
     5. 20% minimum down payment
     6. Balance payable in equal monthly installments over a maximum term of five (5) years. The benchmark interest rate to be charged by HGC shall be based on the Bloomberg Mart Rate of government securities of similar term as of the date of HGC's receipt of purchase proposal.
6. Bidding documents can be secured from the Project Management and Acquired Assets Disposition Group of the HGC at the 4th Floor, # 335 Jade Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00).**
7. Sealed bids must be received on or before September 29, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. and should be dropped in the designated Bid Box located at the 4th Floor Lobby of the HGC Office. Bids submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
8. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property before tendering their bids.

For inquiries, please call Ruth E. Bañares/Luisa E. Cabrera at telephone nos. 897-32-86 & 897-32-90 or visit our office at #335 Jade Building , Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS
Officer-In-Charge
Project Management & Acquired
Assets Disposition Group

(PDI–Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, 2006)

Pasay mayor, 10 councilors suspended

By Norman Bordadora

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN YESterday suspended from office for six months Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto and 10 members of the city council for an allegedly anomalous garbage collection and disposal contract worth more than P400 million.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said the officials passed questionable resolutions that practically dispensed with the public bidding required when local governments enter into contracts with private firms for public services.

Also placed under preventive suspension were city councilors Richard Advincula, Lexter Ibay, Jose Antonio Roxas, Ma. Antonia Cuneta, Noel Bayona, Arnel Regino Arceo, Editha Vergel de Dios, Marie Irish Pineda, Generoso Cuneta and Greg Paolo Alcera.

The Ombudsman said the council should have strictly observed existing procurement procedures particularly those on public bidding, considering the huge amount appropriated for garbage collection and disposal for 2004 and 2005 in the amount of P464,640,000 or P232,320,000 per year.

The Ombudsman ordered Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno to immediately implement the suspension order.

A complaint filed by Juanito Delmendo alleged that Trinidad entered into garbage collection and disposal contracts without any public bidding, but with the city council's approval.

METROBRIEFS

Truck falls off bridge

SEVERAL stalls were damaged when an 18-wheel carrier truck, carrying tons of steel, fell off a bridge and landed on a usually crowded area in Pasig City early yesterday morning. The accident happened about 5 a.m. yesterday when owners had not yet opened their stalls for business. Nobody was seriously hurt except for a stall owner who was sleeping in one of the stalls when the accident occurred. Pasig City Rescue Unit operation commander Rommel Antinero said the still unidentified driver and his assistants fled after the accident, apparently bringing with them the truck's registration papers. Police theorized the vehicle was moving fast on the eastbound lane on Ortigas Avenue Extension when it suddenly went out of control.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Not enough proof

FINGERPRINTS found inside the evidence room of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) matched that of six to 10 personnel of the agency, according to new evidence gathered by investigators probing the theft last week of P21 million worth of shabu stored in the room. But Sr. Supt. Francisco Gabriel, PDEA information officer, said the match does not indicate guilt. "There is a match because the said personnel work there," he said. The fingerprints were lifted by the PNP's Crime Laboratory from 80 PDEA personnel who belong to the first batch of PDEA employees undergoing fingerprint testing. A polygraph test given to the 80 employees showed that two employees failed the test.

Alcuin Papa

Shoe festival on

LIVING up to its reputation as the country's Shoe Capital, Marikina City is holding a week-long Shoe Festival beginning today. Mayor Marikina Marides Fernando said the festival would be a venue for the city government to highlight its shoe industry. The city has prepared concerts, exhibits and seminars for the festival to promote the industry. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Five-day Iraq bloodbath leaves nearly 400 dead

BAGHDAD—IRAQIS BRACED FOR tit-for-tat violence on the Muslim day of rest Friday after a spate of attacks on mainly Shiite areas of the capital raised already sky-high tensions.

A relentless five-day bloodbath across Iraq has left nearly 400 people dead, many of them in brutal attacks on Shiite markets and neighborhoods in Baghdad.

The US military has also reported 17 servicemen dead since Sunday.

On Friday it announced that two more troops had been killed in "enemy action" in the mainly Sunni western province of Al-Anbar.

The latest deaths took the military's losses since the March 2003 invasion to 2,637, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures.

Baghdad saw some of the worst fighting over the past five days.

On Thursday, a wave of seven synchronized car bomb and rocket attacks killed at least 43 people and wounded another 160 in Shiite and Christian areas like Sadr City and Al-Amin.

The attacks—which came shortly before the dusk-to-dawn curfew—saw dozens of men, women and children falling prey to deadly assaults. They will be blamed on Sunni extremists.

The attack in the Al-Amin neighborhood left 14 people dead after a car bomb exploded in a market busy with shoppers making last-minute purchases before the curfew—a common target for Sunni militants.

Six more explosive devices, including rockets, were detonated in three areas, killing another 29 people. Two of them hit the capital's most populous Shiite district of Sadr City.

Previous attacks by Sunni insurgents have been avenged by Shiite death squads and tension was high as hundreds of thousands of Iraqis from the rival communities went to their respective mosques.

Health officials report that nearly 100 people are killed daily across Iraq in sectarian and insurgent violence.

The latest fighting in Baghdad comes despite a massive security crackdown enforced by Iraqi and US forces since mid-June which has seen all vehicle traffic banned from the streets around the main weekly prayers.

The bloodshed has undermined attempts by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to reconcile the warring Muslim sects.

The latest bout of killing burst out after a meeting last Saturday between Maliki and hundreds of tribal leaders, who agreed to back the Shiite premier's reconcilation plans. *AFP*

US researchers turn back cancer with gene therapy

WASHINGTON—A TEAM OF US researchers successfully turned back advanced melanoma skin cancer by manipulating the genes of white blood cells to get them to attack the cancer, according to a new report Thursday.

The National Cancer Institute scientists showed the ability to get a sustained regression in melanoma, a highly dangerous and frequently fatal form of skin cancer, by reprogramming through gene therapy patients' own lymphocytes, or white blood cells, to recognize and fight the cancer cells.

They tried out the method on 17 patients in three groups, injecting into them the patients' own lymphocytes altered by the genetic introduction of T cell receptors, which steer the cells to find and destroy cancer tumor cells.

The method failed to stall the disease in the first group of three.

So the researchers modified the treatment to make sure the genetically manipulated lymphocytes were injected into the patients at the cells' most active growth phase.

That generated better results: of the remaining 14 patients, the cancer regressed in two patients, who remained free of the disease for one year.

Moreover, one month after receiving the gene therapy, all patients in the latter two groups continued to have significant levels of the cancer-fighting cells. *AFP*

RECOVERED Edvard Munch's "Madonna," (shown at left) which was stolen Aug. 22, 2004 with another painting "The Scream" from the Munch Museum in Oslo in a dramatic 2004 heist by armed robbers, have been recovered, Norwegian police said. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

UN peacekeepers to Darfur

UNITED NATIONS—The Security Council on Thursday gave its green light for a UN takeover of peacekeeping in Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region, increasing the pressure on Khartoum to lift its strong opposition to the move. Twelve of the council's 15 members voted in favor of a resolution which states that the deployment of a 17,300-strong UN force would take place "on the basis of the acceptance of the (Sudanese) government." China, Russia and Qatar abstained. The text calls for UN peacekeepers to take over from the ill-equipped and cash-strapped African Union (AU) mission, which has been unable to stop a conflict which has left up to 300,000 people killed and 2.5 million people displaced over the past three years. Deploying a robust UN force is seen as crucial to shore up a fragile Darfur peace agreement signed by the Khartoum government and the main rebel faction in May. *AFP*

Donors pledge $940M for Lebanon

STOCKHOLM—Donor nations pledged $940 million aid on Thursday to help Lebanon rebuild smashed infrastructure, shelter the homeless and remove unexploded ordinance after a blistering 34-day Israeli bombing offensive. "An amount exceeding $900 million was pledged at the Stockholm conference," Swedish Foreign Minister Jan Eliasson told delegates, later updating the sum to $940 million (734.7 million euros). Including previous contributions, the amount pledged so far for Lebanon's acute needs totals 1.2 billion dollars, Eliasson said, later telling reporters that the United States, the European Union and Gulf states had been the most generous donors. "This conference has met its objectives by a wide margin," he said, noting that Swedish organizers had originally hoped to raise $500 million. Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora expressed his gratitude but recalled that the cost of the damage wrought by Israel's offensive would run to billions of dollars. "We discovered today that Lebanon is not alone," he told reporters. *AFP*

India official linked to UN scam

UNITED NATIONS—An internal UN investigation concluded that a UN official steered millions of dollars in contracts to a company owned by the government of his native India, in exchange for favors that included low-rent apartments. The investigation claimed that Sanjaya Bahel, himself an official in the Indian government when he was working for the UN under contract, used his relationship with a wealthy Indian businessman and his son to steer the deals to the company they represented, Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. According to the report disclosed Thursday, Bahel also ignored evidence that TCIL wrongly withheld money from employees sent to UN peacekeeping missions in places such as Liberia, Congo and Kosovo to do communications work. While the workers claimed they were only getting a pittance—sometimes as little as $5 for daily expenses—the money enriched another company associated with the Indian businessman and his son. *AP*

US Hispanics to outbuy blacks

ATLANTA—Hispanics will outpace blacks as the most powerful minority consumers in the country next year, according to a new study from the University of Georgia. Still, the vast majority of US states will continue to see blacks as their strongest minority market because the nation's Hispanic population is concentrated in a handful of areas, study author Jeffrey Humphreys said. Hispanics are expected to have buying power of $863.1 billion, compared to black buying power of $847 billion in 2007. Hispanics—the nation's largest and fastest growing ethnic minority—will comprise about 8.5 percent of the nation's total consumer market next year. *AP*

3 young Japanese women in suicide pact

TOKYO—Three young women were found dead in an apparent group suicide in a parked car in Tokyo, police said. A police officer on patrol discovered the dead women, all believed to be in their twenties, inside the vehicle in a deserted parking lot in western Tokyo, according to a local police official who gave only his last name, Yasuda. There was no sign that any of the women struggled and investigators suspect suicide, Yasuda said. Three still-smoking charcoal stoves were found in the sealed car and the women likely died of asphyxiation, Yasuda said. Charcoal stoves, which emit carbon monoxide fumes that cause asphyxia in sealed areas, are typically used in group suicides in Japan. *AP*

Aussie PM: Migrants must learn English

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—Prime Minister John Howard said Friday that migrants to Australia must learn English, embrace equal rights for women and adopt unspecified "Australian" values that will integrate them into society.

Howard, who has tried to cultivate an image as a cricket-loving everyman, rejected suggestions he was offending some people by stating his view that migrants from other cultures must fit in with Australian society.

Some Islamic community leaders complained about comments Howard made Thursday to a radio talk program in which he said a small section of the Muslim community in Australia resisted learning English and adopting other cultural norms.

Responding to the criticism on Friday, Howard repeated the comments and said he had nothing to apologize for.

"I think they are missing the point and the point is that I don't care, and the Australian people don't care, where people come from," Howard told reporters in Sydney.

He said the remarks applied to all migrants, not just those who are Muslims.

"All migrants ... they have to integrate, and that means speaking English as quickly as possible, it means embracing Australian values," Howard said. *AP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2006

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US rushes sanctions as Iran defies UN

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush vowed that Iran will face the "consequences" of its refusal to meet Thursday's UN deadline for halting the production of nuclear fuel that could be used to develop weapons.

US diplomats were already preparing a proposal for graduated sanctions against Iran when the UN nuclear watchdog confirmed that, as expected, Tehran had not suspended its uranium enrichment program as demanded by a UN Security Council resolution.

"It is time for Iran to make a choice," Bush said in a speech to a US veterans group as the UN deadline ticked by.

"We've made our choice. We will continue to work closely with our allies to plan a diplomatic solution, but there must be consequences for Iran's defiance and we must not allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon," he said.

Bush was speaking as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released its report in Vienna confirming that "Iran has not suspended its enrichment related activities." The conclusion was expected since Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had defiantly declared hours earlier that his government would not back down "an inch" in the nuclear standoff.

Iran insists its uranium enrichment effort is designed only to produce fuel for civilian nuclear power plants, an activity allowed under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty of which Tehran is a signatory.

And a senior official close to the IAEA said UN inspectors had found no "concrete proof" that Iran's nuclear program was of a military nature.

But Washington and its allies still lost no time in moving toward sanctions with senior diplomats from the five permanent Security Council members plus Germany planning to meet next Thursday in Berlin to outline the exact steps to take against Iran, the US State Department said.

Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States will meet a day after talks in Berlin between Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who has been acting as a mediator in the dispute.

State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack flatly ruled out even indirect talks between representatives of the six major powers and the Iranian envoy in Berlin.

But he said that both before and after the Berlin talks he expected "there will be diplomatic contacts with the Iranians to encourage them to take the offer that has been made to them and to comply with the just demands of the international community." Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, the third-ranking US diplomat, who will represent Washington in Berlin, said he expects the Security Council to adopt a sanctions plan within a month.

US officials have said the sanctions would be gradual, beginning with relatively symbolic steps like bans on travel by Iranian nuclear officials, then building to more substantial measures. *AFP*

Chiina, 7
Grade 2, PAREF-Woodrose

Pianist, Piano Teachers' Guild of the Philippines' Piano Festival 2006.

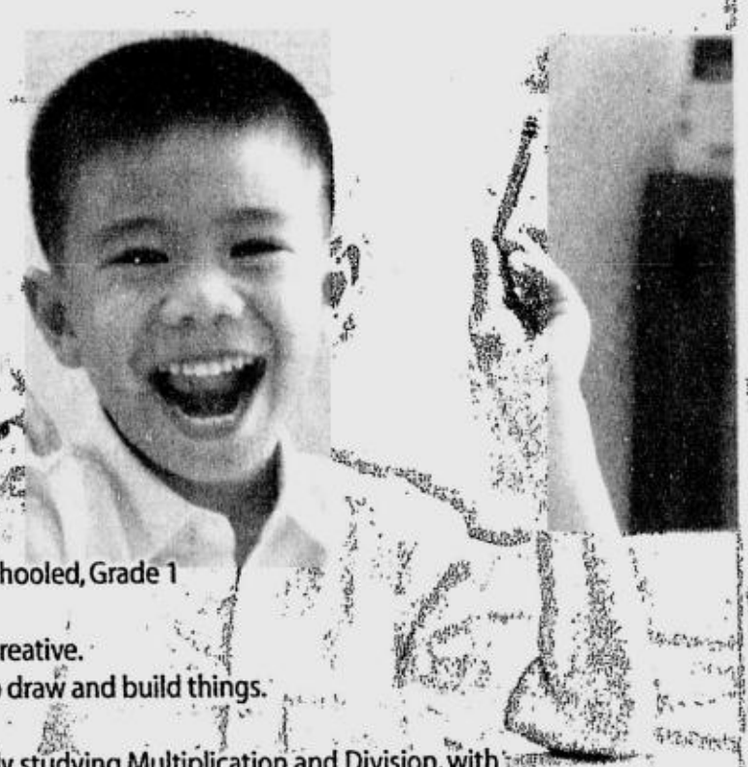
Learning to construct and respond to questions using who, what, where, when, why and how, organizes information from passages into a chart format, writes answers independently, tackling Grade 3 topics of the Kumon Reading Program.

Vinni, 16
Freshman, ASEAN Scholar at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore

Loves to play basketball and tennis.
37th International Physics Olympiad Bronze Medalist.
2nd International Junior Science Olympiad Silver Medalist.
Math Competition Champion.

Kumon Math Program Completer.

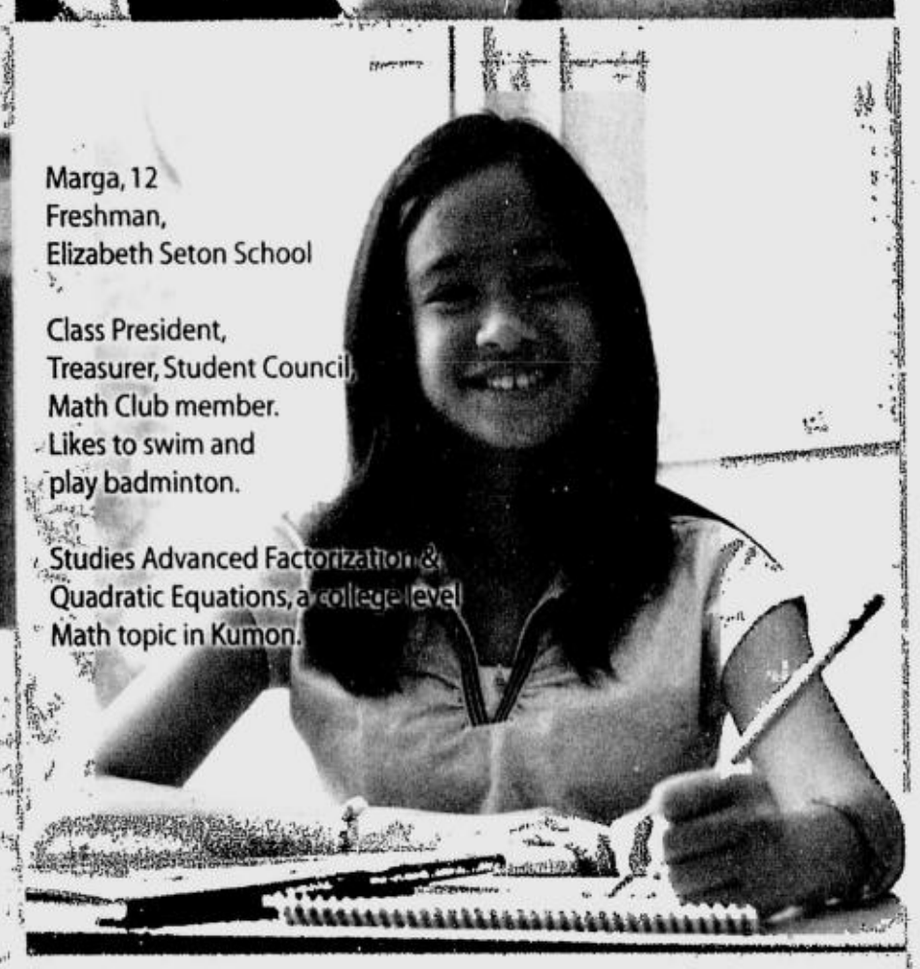
MOON AND URANUS
This image provided by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope Aug. 31 is a never-before-seen astronomical alignment of a moon traversing the face of Uranus, and its accompanying shadow. AP



Kairos, 7
Homeschooled, Grade 1

Highly creative.
Loves to draw and build things.

Currently studying Multiplication and Division, with Introduction to Fractions, 4th grade level topic in Kumon.



Marga, 12
Freshman,
Elizabeth Seton School

Class President,
Treasurer, Student Council,
Math Club member.
Likes to swim and play badminton.

Studies Advanced Factorization & Quadratic Equations, a college level Math topic in Kumon.

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KUMON

In new textbooks, China drops Mao, communist revolutions

BEIJING—WHEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS in Shanghai crack their history textbooks this fall they may be in for a surprise. The new standard world history text drops wars, dynasties and communist revolutions in favor of colorful tutorials on economics, technology, social customs and globalization.

Socialism has been reduced to a single, short chapter in the senior high school history course. Chinese communism before the economic reform that began in 1979 is covered in a sentence. The text mentions Mao only once—in a chapter on etiquette.

Nearly overnight the country's most prosperous schools have shelved the Marxist template that had dominated standard history texts since the 1950s. Supporters say the overhaul enlivens mandatory history courses for junior and senior high school students and better prepares them for life in the real world. But critics say the textbooks trade one political agenda for another. They do not so much rewrite history as diminish it.

J.P. Morgan, Bill Gates, the New York Stock Exchange, the Space Shuttle and Japan's bullet train are all highlighted. Mao, the Long March, colonial oppression of China and the Rape of Nanjing are taught only in a compressed history curriculum in junior high.

"Our traditional version of history was focused on ideology and national identity," said Zhu Xueqin, a historian at Shanghai University. "The new history is less ideological, and that suits the political goals of today."

The changes are at least initially limited to Shanghai. That elite urban region has leeway to alter its curriculum and textbooks, and in the past it has introduced advances that the central government has instructed the rest of the country to follow.

But the textbooks have provoked a lively debate among historians ahead of their full-scale introduction in Shanghai in the fall term.

"The junior high textbook castrates history, while the senior high school textbook eliminates it entirely," one Shanghai history teacher wrote in an online discussion. The teacher asked to remain anonymous because he was criticizing the education authorities.

Others speculated that the Shanghai textbooks reflected the political viewpoints of China's top leaders, including Jiang Zemin, the former president and Communist Party chief, and his successor, Hu Jintao.

Hu coined the phrase "harmonious society," which analysts say aims to persuade people to build a stable, prosperous, unified China under one-party rule. The new textbooks de-emphasize dynastic change, peasant struggle, ethnic rivalry and war, some critics say, because the leadership does not want people thinking that such things matter a great deal.

New York Times

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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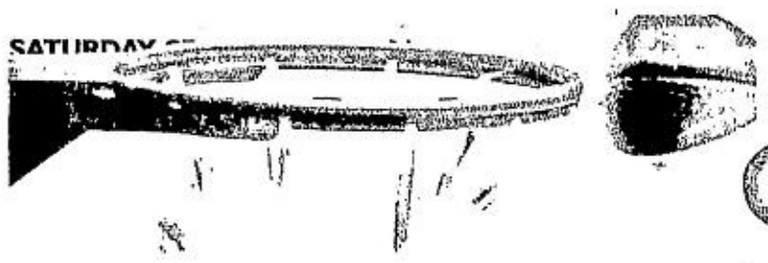
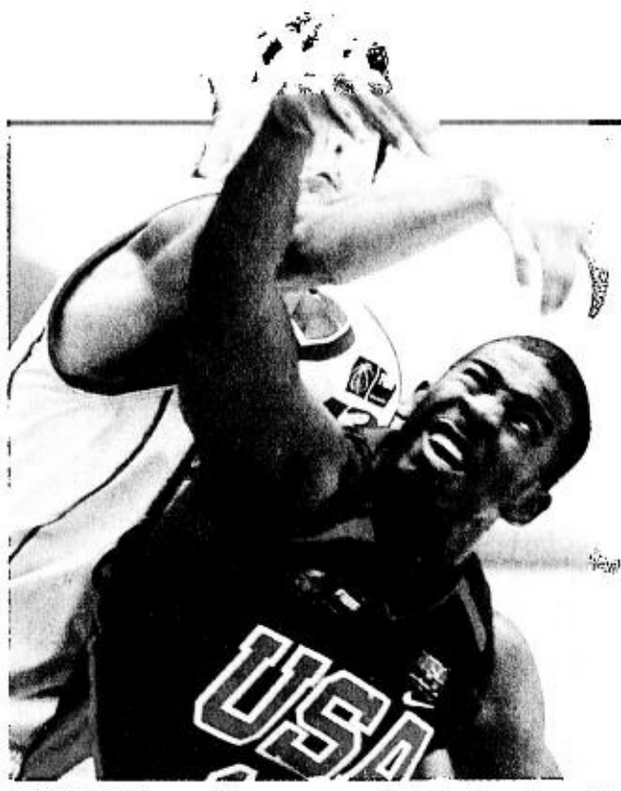




DIMITRIS Diamantidis swats away Chris Paul's undergoal stab to underscore the indomitable Greeks' all-game mastery of the Americans. AP

Gutsy Greeks shame US cagers, gain final

SAITAMA, JAPAN—VASSILIS SPANOULIS SCORED 22 POINTS Friday as Greece used a sizzling stretch of shooting across the middle two quarters to turn a 12-point deficit into a 14-point lead and beat the United States, 101-95, in the semifinals of the Fiba world championship.

The Greeks (8-0) can add a world title to the European championship they won in 2005 with a victory over either Spain or Argentina in Sunday's gold medal game. Those teams, also undefeated, met in Friday's second game.

Mihalis Kakiouzis added 15 for Greece and 2.08-meter (6-foot-10) Sofoklis Schortsianitis—nicknamed "Baby Shaq"—added 14, shooting 6-of-7. The Greeks shot 63 percent (35-of-56) from the field and made 31 of 44 shots across the final three periods.

The Greeks—with no current NBA players on their roster—danced in a circle at halfcourt after their victory over an American team put together after a series of recent failures.

GUTSY/ A25

■ **Agassi survives** four-hour test, bundles out Baghdatis /A25

Coaches buck Eala's 3-point dunk

By June Navarro

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, PHILIPPINE BASketball Association commissioner Noli Eala will have to summon all his powers to convince the pro league to embrace his innovative 3-point dunk proposal.

Majority of the coaches in the league have spoken against Eala's scheme, which will either be approved or shot down by the PBA Board of Governors when it meets Wednesday next week.

Barangay Ginebra's Jong Uichico and Sta. Lucia Realty's Alfrancis Chua, two coaches armed with spring-loaded players, are not excited with it.

"I thought we're trying to go back to amateur rules so we can improve in international tournaments," said Uichico, whose team is bursting at the seams with players capable of making the three-point dunk.

Rafi Reavis, Rudy Hatfield, Romel Adducul, Eric Menk, Andy Seigle, Mike Holper and even Sunday Salvacion could take advantage if the proposed rule gets the nod of the board.

San Miguel Beer's Chot Reyes, who calls the shots for the national team, shares Chua and Uichico's sentiments, along with Ryan Gregorio of Purefoods, Derek Pumaren of Talk 'N Text, Welcoat's Leo Austria, Binky Favis of Coca-Cola.

"That rule will defeat the purpose of training more shooters for the national team," said Reyes.

Under Eala's proposal, a dunk will be given three points if: No. 1, it is scored by a player who takes off six feet away from the basket; No. 2, a player finishes a fast-break play off a steal in the backcourt; or No. 3, a player completes a catch-and-dunk situation in mid-air.

Red Bull's Yeng Guiao keeps "an open mind" but said he doesn't think it's workable. "Players could become prone to injury," he said.

So far, only Air21 coach Bo Perasol approves of Eala's proposal. "We have many players who are capable of doing (3-point dunk)," said Perasol.

Meanwhile, amateur stars LA Tenorio and Gabby Espinas have signed three- and two-year deals, respectively, with San Miguel Beer.

Blazers end season on bright note

DAVID URRA III SCORED ON A GAME-WINNING LAYUP WITH 3.9 seconds left as host St. Benilde hacked out a 69-68 victory over Jose Rizal University yesterday, giving the Blazers something to cheer about after a gloomy season in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The 2000 champion, whose campaign hit rock-bottom despite producing top PBL players like Jay Sagad and Paulo Orbeta, wrapped up another forgettable stint which saw them drop 10 consecutive games en route to a league-worst 3-11 slate after the eliminations.

The Blazers' first win of the season came at the expense of the Perpetual Help Altas in their second game. But it was all downhill from there.

In the second game, Perpetual Help completed a sweep of San Sebastian, 85-69, to secure the fifth spot with a 5-9 record and pull its victim down to 4-10.

STANDINGS	W	L
*San Beda	12	1
*Letran	10	3
*PCU	9	4
*Mapua	7	6
Perpetual	5	9
San Sebastian	4	10
Jose Rizal	4	10
St. Benilde	3	11

*clinched semis berth

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—PCU vs Mapua (Srs)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran (Srs/Jrs)

Meanwhile, the NCAA management committee yesterday upheld the recommendation of basketball commissioner Jun Bernardino to slap a one-game suspension on Mapua's Joferson Gonzales for elbowing San Beda's Samuel Ekwe during their game won by the Red Lions (73-56) early this week.

JOSE Rizal's John Wilson (8) and Marvin Hayes dispute the rebound with St. Benilde's William Johnston in yesterday's game. RYAN LIM

The varsity scores:

Second Game

ST. BENILDE 69—Johnston 16, Urra III 12, Urra Jr. 7, Layug 7, Libunao 6, Cadiz 5, Umias 5, David 3, Devaras 3, Manlapaz 2, Sevilla 2, Manding 1, Aldover 0.

JRU 68—Cagoco 18, Dedicatoria 14, Sena 13, Wilson 11, Pradas 6, Nocom 6, Hayes 0, Fenequito 0, Bucao 0, Se 0.

Quarters: 18-14, 36-32, 50-51, 69-68

Third Game

PERPETUAL 85—Misa 22, Bauzon 18, Galabin 12, Kong 11, Manuel 7, Lee 7, Reyes 7, Mendoza 1, Liaz 0.

SSC 69—Vicente 15, Viray 12, Raymundo 8, Bulawan 8, Delgado 5, De Leon 4, Aquino 4, Tioseeco 4, Najorda 4, Lindaya 3, Ballesteros 2, Sagad 0, Qulamco 0, Juan 0.

Quarters: 20-14, 43-33, 56-51, 85-69

Eagles out to correct flaws vs Bulldogs

ATENEO COACH NORMAN BLACK had always known his Eagles' weak points.

Although the flaws only became apparent in the Eagles' first loss this season, the league leaders will try to rectify them when they go up against the National U Bulldogs in the lone UAAP senior match at 4 p.m. today at the PhilSports Arena.

The multititled Black zeroed in on two aspects which the Eagles must work on, apart from improving their accuracy from the three-point area.

"We gave up too many points off turnovers and there were times we didn't rebound very well," he said.

The Eagles, the only team to claim the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four, absorbed an unlikely overtime loss against the crippled Santo Tomas Tigers, 88-80, last Sunday.

Despite the absence of their key players due to illnesses and injuries, the Tigers outrebounded the Eagles, 52-39.

The Bulldogs, on the other hand, face a must-win situation to sustain their flickering chances in the Final Four.

Meanwhile, Adamson's Leo Canuday is reportedly out of danger but will miss the season after a bad fall dislocated his elbow in the Falcons' victory over the UE Warriors. *Jasmine W. Payo*

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	8	1
Univ of East	7	3
Adamson	5	5
Santo Tomas	5	6
Far Eastern	5	6
National	3	7
Univ of Phils	3	8

GAMES TODAY (*PhilSports*)
10 a.m.—UST vs NU (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Jrs)
2 p.m.—AdU vs FEU (Jrs)
4 p.m.—NU vs Ateneo (Srs)

MVP no second choice as unified caging head

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

WHEN I LEARNED FROM A colleague that former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud had personally recommended businessman Manny V. Pangilinan to assume the post of chair of the three-man basketball panel—a job originally offered to Salud by Joey Lina and Bernie Atienza, presidents of the BAP and Pilipinas Basketball, respectively—my first impulse was to call PBA chair Ricky Vargas to inquire if the PLDT boss would be interested.

As soon as I touched my cellphone, however, I hesitated.

It didn't take a great deal of intellect to conclude that even if MVP was interested in the position, it would not stand well for a man of his stature to be only the second choice. I was told by a source who was privy to the basketball unity negotiations in Japan, that there was actually no first or second choice when they were discussing the possible candidates.

"Many names were actually mentioned. The press actually beat us to the choice," he said.

* * *

Instead of calling Ricky, I decided to reach Air21's Lito Alvarez, the PBA treasurer who is also deputy secretary general of the BAP.

Lito presented the real scenario. He believes that this time, Philippine basketball will be unified and the Fiba ban on the Philippines will be lifted after Sept. 30.

Since the chairmanship of the three-man panel is a hands-on, working job, Lito said Ricky Vargas, instead of MVP, would be perfect for job.

"This is a temporary position and a hardworking, neutral, results-oriented man like Ricky would definitely be up to the task, despite his many responsibilities. That is, if he accepts," Lito said.

"After everything has been ironed out and Philippine basketball has been unified, this is the time the chairmanship of the new national sports association (NSA) should be offered to Manny Pangilinan, who I believe is the best person for the position, considering his passion for the sport."

When the process reaches this point, Lito said he would personally campaign for MVP in his turf.

"I will be his No. 1 rooter. Philippine basketball couldn't be in better, more capable hands," he said.

* * *

The diamonds on Tracy McGrady's ears seemed so much bigger and glittery than the pair he wore when he first came to the Philippines back in 2000. The size seemed to have doubled as well.

T-Mac admitted that the jewelry had been upgraded, although he didn't reveal how many karats they weighed.

Not only the jewelry, but so many things about the NBA cager have changed, if not grown bigger since 2000.

Most noteworthy, he has become a bigger star and a better man.

"I have become more matured," he said.

I asked him if he remembered the time he watched a PBA game in 2000, when he put his legs up on a table at ringside. A horrified woman had screamed at him to put his legs where they should be.

T-Mac didn't remember the incident, but I admired the way he handled the situation with humor. He got back at the woman in front of the TV camera (the footage will be shown next week on RPN Newswatch's In Huddle segment at 5 p.m.

* * *

HOOPVINE: Rudy Hatfield field gave up so much in the United States to get another crack at the PBA. I'm anxious to have an interview with the Ginebra cager, who left behind a beautiful girl—the girl he intends to marry—and a prestigious fireman's job in the United States. San Miguel officials also informed me that Rudy had enrolled in a nursing course in the US at the time Eric Menk tracked him down... PBA fans were surprised to see former PBA imports Julius Nwosu and Gabe Moneke playing for the Nigerian team in the World Basketball Championship in Saitama, Japan... They were more surprised to see that the Spanish squad was carrying the colors of San Miguel Beer.

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

MARTINA Hingis wears a wry smile after being sent packing by Virginia Razzano of France. AFP

Razzano shows Hingis the door; top seeds cruise

NEW YORK—MARTINA HINGIS, the five-time Grand Slam champion back on tour after a three-year retirement, was upset, 6-2, 6-4, by 112th-ranked Virginie Razzano of France Thursday in the biggest upset of the US Open so far.

Hingis came into the day with a 44-14 mark this season, with none of the losses to anyone ranked lower than 23rd. Ten of her setbacks came against women who've won major championships.

"It's not only that she played well, but I didn't play good," Hingis said.

Plus, it was the earliest US Open defeat of Hingis' career; she won the 1997 title, reached two other finals here and never had lost before the fourth round.

About the only intrigue involved in the matches played earlier Thursday by Maria Sharapova and Lindsay Davenport was just how lopsided their victories would be. Serena Williams won in straight sets, too, although not before falling behind early. Fellow past champions Justine Henin-Hardenne and Svetlana Kuznetsova never were challenged.

Sharapova lost the first point of her match against Emilie Loit, then won 29 of the next 31 en route to a 6-0, 6-1 victory. Kuznetsova beat 16-year-old Lauren Albanese of the United States 6-1, 6-1, while Henin-Hardenne eliminated 17-year-old Vania King of the United States 6-1, 6-2. King's day wasn't done, however: She sang "America the Beautiful" before Hingis, then Andre Agassi, played in the night session in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Top-seeded Amelie Mauresmo had no trouble beating Meghann Shaughnessy, 6-4, 6-3. *AP*

One more day

Survives four-hour test, bundles out Baghdatis

NEW YORK—ANDRE AGASSI, 36 YEARS OLD and burdened by a bad back, extended his career for at least one more match by winning a thriller over eighth-seeded Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 7-5, at the US Open.

Agassi, buoyed by a cortisone injection and the raucous, sellout crowd, traded stinging strokes for nearly four hours as Thursday night became Friday.

In the end it was the 21-year-old Baghdatis who broke down physically, his body contorted by cramps in both thighs during an eight-deuce, four-break-point game that Agassi eventually held to lead, 5-4, in the fifth set. Later, Baghdatis used the chair umpire's stand to stretch his aching legs.

Agassi was still hustling to reach seemingly unreachable shots, responding with winners, and skipping out to the baseline to start games at his record 21st consecutive Open—one for each year of Baghdatis' life.

"In most cases, I prefer to live without the drama," Agassi kidded later. "It just seems like it's getting better and better."

When it was over, they shook hands at the net, then embraced. And Agassi was quick to thank the 23,700 or so fans who enjoyed quite a ride at Flushing Meadows.

"Tonight has been another example of moments you're not guaranteed in life," Agassi said.

Baghdatis reached across the net and tapped Agassi on the heart as they walked off to a roaring, standing ovation.

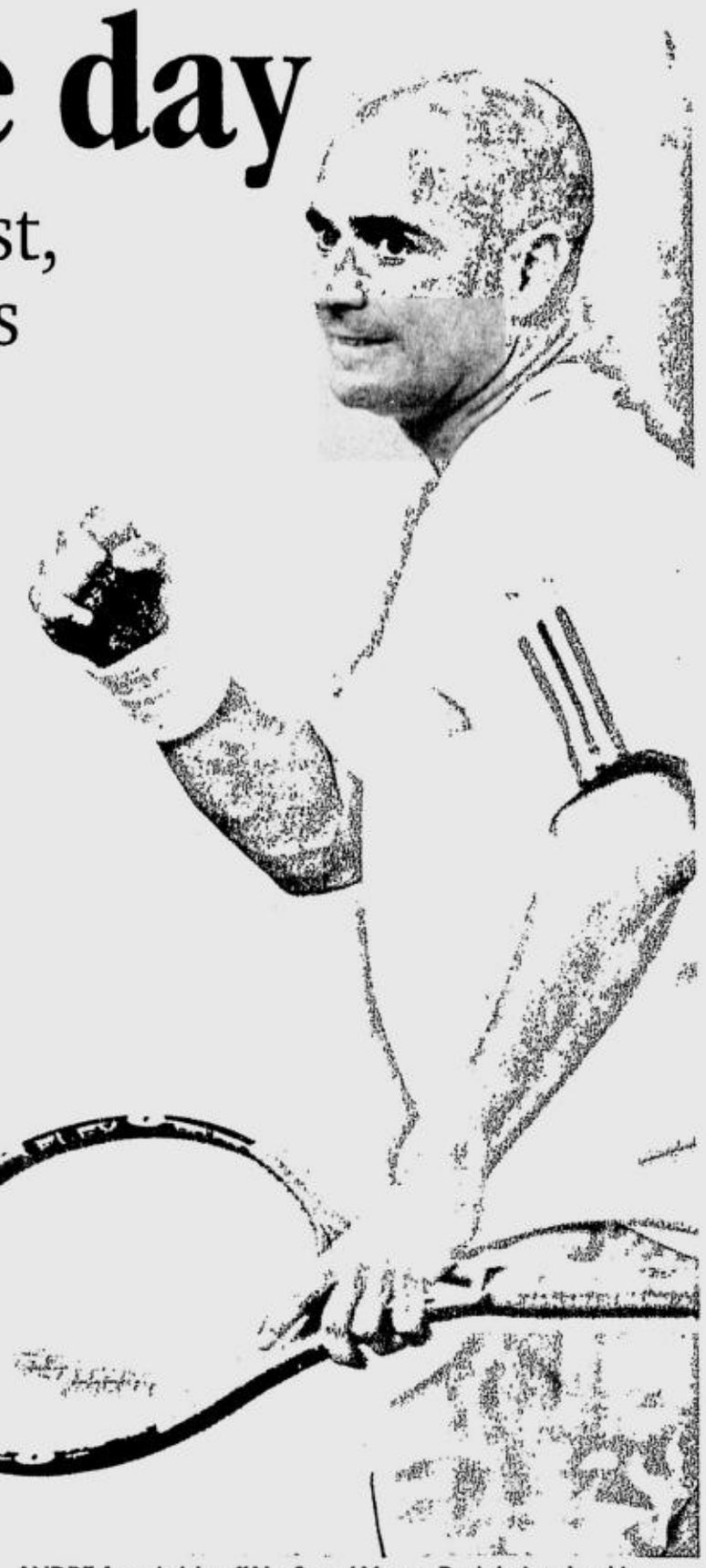
"I wanted to just die on the court. I wanted to do anything to win," Baghdatis said.

There weren't many tough tests in the men's draw, although No. 27-seeded Gael Monfils lost to Wesley Moodie, and two-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal dropped a set before getting past Luis Horna.

Baghdatis' very first serve of the second-round encounter was a fault, eliciting hoots from the stands. Moments later, a fan in the upper deck yelled: "Andre, this is your house! And it's all of us against him!"

As if there were any doubt. Agassi is, after all, an American at the American Grand Slam, one of the most popular players in recent tennis history—and everyone knows each match here could be his last as a pro. That final part is also why Agassi went to the hospital this week for the latest in a series of shots to dull pain from a troublesome sciatic nerve; he could barely stand after his first-round victory over Andrei Pavel.

Against Baghdatis, Agassi missed consecutive backhands to get broken in the fifth set's opening game. Agassi wiped sweat from his brow, shook his head and trudged slowly toward the sideline. But with the lead—and momentum—finally on Baghdatis' side, it was youngster who asked for a medical timeout so he could get his strained left thigh massaged. *AP*



ANDRE Agassi picks off No. 8 seed Marcos Baghdatis to buy his farewell tour yet another playdate at the US Open. AP

CARMELO Anthony casts a lonely picture of defeat amid the Greek celebration. REUTERS

Spain reaches basketball final

SAITAMA, JAPAN—JUAN CALDERON made one free throw with 18 seconds left and Spain held on for a 75-74 victory over Argentina on Friday, guaranteeing the Europeans their first medal ever in World Championship.

Spain (8-0) will face Greece for the gold medal on Sunday night. Greece (8-0) beat the United States 101-95 in the other semifinal, meaning a team from Europe will win the world championship for the third straight time. Yugoslavia won it all in 1998 and 2002.

However, Spain's victory was tempered when Pau Gasol, who had 19 points and 11 rebounds injured his left ankle in the final minute. After the game, two teammates carried Gasol, who plays for the Memphis Grizzlies, off the court with the ankle wrapped in tape with ice and placed him in a wheelchair to be taken to the locker room.

Luis Scola of Argentina (7-1) made two free throws with 21 seconds left to tie the game at 74. Argentina fouled Calderon near midcourt, figuring even if he made two free throws it would have a chance at winning the game in regulation.

Calderon, who plays for the Toronto Raptors, missed the first and made the second. Argentina came down court and Andres Nocioni, who plays for the Chicago Bulls, got off a 3-point attempt from the left corner with three seconds left. It bounced off the rim and while players from both scrambled for it above the 3-point line, the buzzer went off.

The win was the 17th straight for Spain this summer, including two over Argentina in exhibition games leading to this tournament. *AP*

Gutsy Greeks shame US cagers

From page A23

Done in again by their inept 3-point shooting—and they weren't much better from the foul line—the Americans will fall short of a championship in a major international tournament for the third straight time.

The United States (7-1) will return to the court Saturday against the loser of the Argentina-Spain game, hoping to match the bronze medal it left Athens with in 2004.

Carmelo Anthony scored 27 points for the Americans, who couldn't overcome their 32 percent shooting from 3-point range or 59 percent from the foul line. Dwyane Wade added 19 and LeBron James had 17, but the three US captains were unable to avenge their disappointment from Athens.

The United States hasn't even played for a world championship since winning the last of its three titles in Toronto in 1994. Mike Krzyzewski—who was looking for gold after winning bronze with the 1990 team—and a few American players walked to midcourt to congratulate the Greeks, while most of their teammates quickly headed to the locker room.

JAMES REUTERS

The Americans, who put together a national team program this year for the first time after their recent failures, now will be forced to qualify for the 2008 Olympics next summer in the FIBA Americas tournament in Venezuela.

The United States seemed in control after Joe Johnson's 3-pointer gave the Americans a 33-21 lead with about 6 1/2 minutes left in the second quarter. It was around then that James told his teammates on the bench: "They don't know what to do."

Well, they figured it out in a hurry.

Greece scored nine straight points, pulling within three on Theodoros Papaloukas' drive with 3:51 left and forcing Krzyzewski to call timeout. Dwight Howard converted a three-point play, but the Greeks answered with a 13-2 surge, featuring eight points from Schortsianitis, to open a 43-38 advantage and force Krzyzewski to call a second timeout.

Greece hit nine straight shots—its only miss in the last 5 minutes was a heave from halfcourt as time expired—and led 45-41 at halftime. The Greeks shot 56 percent (15-of-27) in the half.

The Americans were 2-of-10 from behind the arc—after going 10-for-40 in their quarterfinal victory over Germany—and trailed at the break for only the second time in the tournament.

Italy had a nine-point cushion in a group play game.

The United States also had nine turnovers—about two below their tournament average for a game—and was 11-of-17 (65 percent) at the foul line. *AP*

Door still open for Asian Games basketball stint

By Musong R. Castillo

EVEN WITH THE PHILIPPINE BASketball Association announcing that it has no plans of sending a team to the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, the unified basketball federation being formed is not closing its doors on the Asiad stint.

"It's an option," said Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) president Joey Lina, half of the partnership that will form the new national sports association (NSA) for the sport.

But first, the BAP and Pilipinas Basketball still have to work on a Fiba-imposed requirement to have a unified association for basketball. The two parties are already looking for that third party that will head the new NSA and among the names that cropped up was that of Alaska owner Wilfred Steven Uytengsu.

"I was quite surprised, to tell you the truth," Uytengsu told the INQUIRER when asked to comment on his name popping up after the top choice for the role, former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, begged off for health reasons.

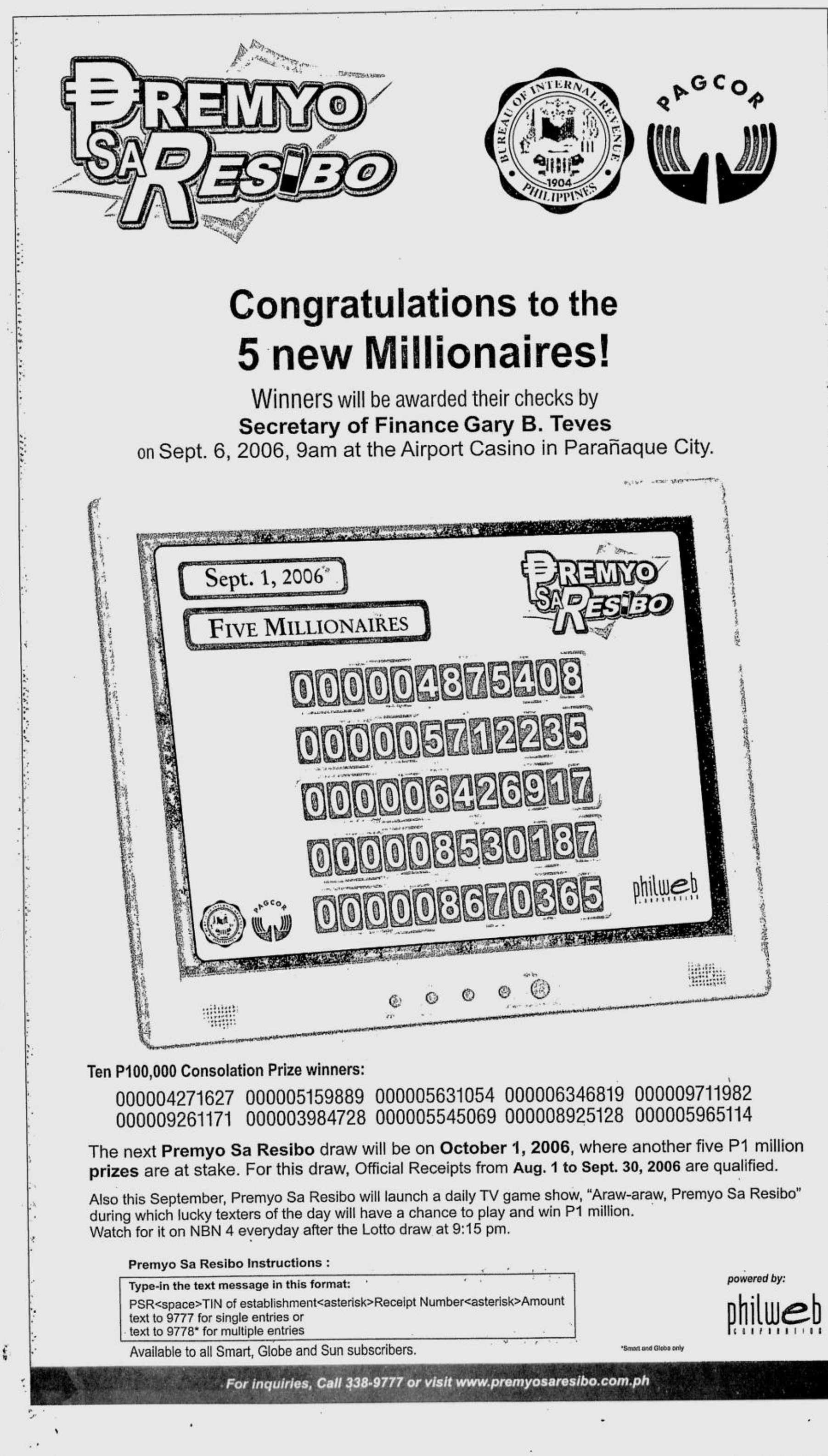
Uytengsu said he hasn't received any formal invitation yet but already has a few things in mind that he plans to do if picked.

Lina and Pilipinas Basketball chief Bernie Atienza said that the country's participation in the Asian Games will be tackled once the group selects the third guy in the unified NSA.

The Philippine Sports Commission, however, put pressure on the PBA when it said it would not take no for an answer as far as the pro league's participation is concerned.

"Our compatriots there are expecting the best players from their homeland to represent them in the Asian Games," said PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez. "And I'm coordinating with the newly formed basketball organization to make sure the strongest team possible will find its way to Doha."

Ramirez's statement came after the PBA had made it clear that it would not send a team to the Asian Games.



Spring Tagaytay cagers score, make s'finals

SPRING TAGAYTAY HELD ITS GROUND IN THE payoff period to subdue Skytex Foam, 72-68, and advance to the semifinals of the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament Thursday at the Lyceum Gym.

Danny Capobres powered the combined Spring Cooking Oil and Batang Tagaytay teams of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and executive vice president and Mayor Bambol Tolentino to the crucial triumph with 19 points.

King's Bakeshop also gained a semifinal seat by edging Laptop Pawnshop, 69-66.

Semifinal action unwraps today at Lyceum gym with Spring Tagaytay facing 5th Avenue at 6 p.m. and King's Bakeshop meeting John O at 7:30.

The scores:

SPRING TAGAYTAY 72—Capobres 19, Morante 10, Rodriguez 10, Epondulan 6, Genido 6, M. Reyes 6, T. Reyes 5, Yambao 4, Finuliar 3, Neo 2, Guiyab 1.

SKYTEX 68—Salangsang 19, Hubalde 16, Sanz 11, Ar Gamboa 7, Nidoy 6, Ilagan 5, Al Gamboa 2, Misolas 2.

Quarters: 14-16, 40-33, 53-47, 72-68

* * *

KING'S 69—Gahol 15, Gaco 13, Mercado 9, Go 8, Litonjua 7, David 6, Tan 2, Ferrer 2.

LAPTOP 66—Delarea 18, Tajonera 11, Santos 11, Kalaw 9, Sergio 8, Ober 5, Lopez 2, Salud 2.

Quarters: 17-10, 36-24, 55-46, 69-66

Milo Little Olympics get going today

SEVEN THOUSAND STUDENTS IN ELEmentary and high school start their quests to become future Olympians today as the 2006 Milo Little Olympics-NCR unfolds at the Marikina Sports Park in Marikina City.

Marikina Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando and Nestlé brand manager Michelle Calo-Alvarillo and Zanele Bacela of Milo Fuze are expected to grace the opening rites at 8:30 a.m. at the sports park's oval.

Cadets from Jose Abad Santos and Marikina Polytechnic College will carry the national colors to the main venue of the Little Olympics, which is celebrating its 19th year.

The event is organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop. Over P400,000 worth of educational assistance and sports equipment are at stake in 11 sports events—volleyball, athletics, swimming, football, sepak takraw, table tennis, chess, badminton, lawn tennis, gymnastics and taekwondo.

SPORTSWATCH

PCAP series starts Monday

EXPLOSIVE MATCHES WILL SPICE UP THE PINOY Cockers Association of the Philippines Stagfighter of the Year race, via a special 5-stag derby on Sept. 4 at the Makati Coliseum. Eight derbies will be presented by PCAP and B-Meg Derby Ace to determine the winners who stand to receive P1 million, said promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. Aficionados can expect 70 fights or more on Monday's opening round. For inquiries, call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

Derby champs see action

ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT'S "RAY SHOWDOWN 6-Stag Derby" starts at 2 p.m. today with 116 fights. Heading the list are LGBA first leg champions Benjie Lim and Boy Gamilla, R.L. Bates 7-stag derby champions Butchoy Olano and Eric dela Rosa, Banahaw 5-stag winner Jun Guia, Dicky Lim, Pol Estrellado, Boy Torres, Louie Cua, Butch Nuñez, Boy de Roca; Tony Lasala, Gabriel Pineda and Nelson Uy. For inquiries, call 833-1638, 852-9812 or 0917-8277484.

GCAP six legs begin Sept. 6

THE SIX-LEG SERIES OF THE GENTLEMEN COCKers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) begins on Sept. 6 at San Juan Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. GCAP was established in 2004 with sabong idol Patrick Antonio as its founder. This year's new members are Mayor Buddy Dunca of Pampanga, Bubot Booc of Masbate, Ricky Valencia and Butch Nunez of Pasig. A Stagfighter of the Year will be chosen and will receive a hefty cash prize and silver cup. For details, call 725-5369 and 725-6563.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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BUSINESS

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A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

BSP survey says firms less optimistic

Confidence level expected to pick up in fourth quarter

By Doris C. Dumlao

SKYROCKETING OIL PRICES, RISING LABOR costs and bad weather dampened business confidence for the third quarter, but optimistic enterprises still outnumbered the pessimistic, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' quarterly survey.

Despite the generally lower level of optimism compared to the second quarter, the third-quarter survey showed that the overall business confidence remained positive, fueled by bullish sectors such as services and construction.

The BSP's business expectations survey—conducted from July 12 to Aug. 14 and covered 1,071 firms across the country—showed the confidence index for the current quarter remaining positive at 21.7 percent, although lower than the 31.6 percent in the second quarter, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said in a press briefing yesterday.

"Their lower optimism was due to the continuing increase in oil prices arising from the conflict in the Middle East and higher labor costs due to the implementation of wage increases in both public and private sectors at the time the survey was conducted," Guinigundo said.

BSP SURVEY/ B2

Peso still rising, closes at 50.735 to $1

THE PESO YESTERDAY EXTENDED ITS GAINS to hit a new four-year intra-day high of 50.70 against the dollar, fueled by the bullish tide across regional currency markets as well as a string of favorable domestic developments.

"The peso is moving in accordance with the market. Good economic data continue to support the currency," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters yesterday.

But Tetangco said the BSP would not want to see "too much volatility."

In recent days, currency traders suspected the BSP of sporadically buying dollars from the spot foreign exchange market to stem the peso's appreciation.

The local currency opened at 50.75 and traded between 50.70 and 50.85 before closing at 50.735, or nearer the intra-day high, against the greenback.

It gained another 6 centavos from Thursday's closing of 50.795 against the greenback.

Since the start of the year, the local currency has now gained by P2.35 or 4.4 percent against the greenback since ending at 53.09 in 2005.

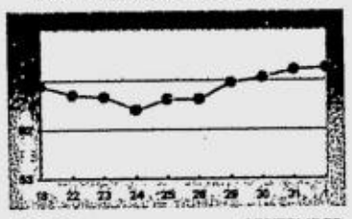
The local currency's appreciation reflected the strong appetite for emerging market assets across global markets.

Locally, demand for pesos was rising despite the importation season because local and foreign investors were gobbling up local

PESO/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.735 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 1, 2006

¥117.28 = $1

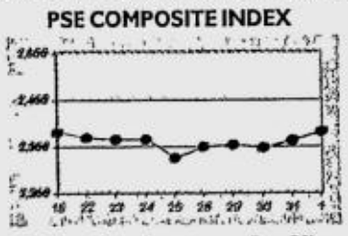
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 1, 2006

GOLD: $625.00-625.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 1, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.74-percent higher yesterday on follow-through buying after solid second-quarter growth figures gave investor confidence a boost, dealers said.

The economy grew 5.5 percent in the second quarter, underpinning expectations that the government would hit its growth targets for the year.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 17.21 points to 2,329.44 after trading between 2,310.32 and 2,332.23. Volume was 3 billion shares worth P3.14 billion. The broader all-shares index rose 10.12 points to 1,455.93.

Gainers beat losers 75 to 25, with 58 stocks unchanged.

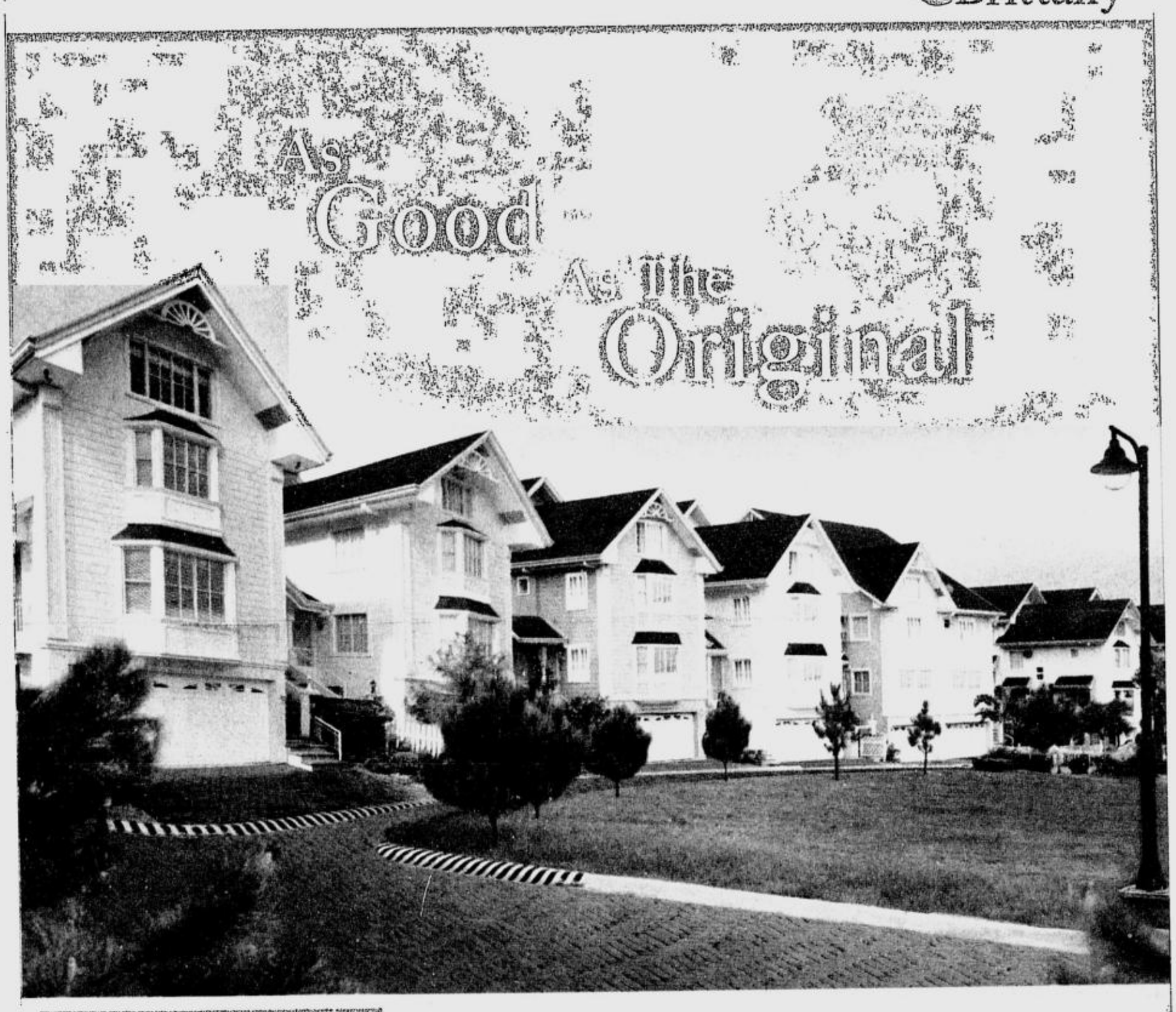
"Investors continued to snap up shares, given the improving economic fundamentals. A strong peso is good news for companies with import requirements and dollar-denominated debt," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the most actively traded stock, was up P15 at P1,925.

SM Investments Corp. fell P2 to P220

SHARES/ B2

Brittany



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THE NEW Victorianne

Rules for backdoor listing cleared

Reverse takeover measure still has to be fine-tuned

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission (SEC) has approved in principle the rules governing "backdoor listings" and "reverse takeovers"—deals that pertain to the acquisition of firms listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The approval came shortly after listed firm Baguio Gold Holdings announced that it would be acquiring flag carrier Philippine Airlines.

But according to SEC sources, the rules proposed by the PSE will still have to be fine-tuned before the final regulatory approval is given.

Backdoor listing, as defined under a 1994 SEC memorandum, refers to "the practice of buying, controlling, taking over and reorganizing listed but otherwise dormant corporations for the purpose of reactivating the trading of their shares in the PSE without going through certain requirements for registration of securities."

Dormant firms are listed companies whose shares are no longer traded.

Under Section 1 of the PSE's proposed rule, a backdoor listing occurs when a listed firm acquires, merges or combines with an unlisted firm, which results in a fundamental change in the business of the listed company.

This definition is currently being fine-tuned.

A reverse takeover on the other hand is when a listed firm acquires control of a privately-owned or unlisted firm, where there is a substantial change in management, control of the company.

Under PSE's proposed rules, and as amended by the SEC, the PSE will allow the listing of shares of a listed firm—the subject of a backdoor listing—provided that the listed company agrees to fully disclose the details of the deal entered by it and complies with requirements for listing, minimum public ownership and continuing listing requirements of the Exchange.

These rules will also apply concurrently with securities laws on mandatory tender offer—or the buyout of minority shareholders at the same price offered to majority shareholders—and other pertinent sections of the PSE's listing and disclosure rules.

The SEC also commented that the PSE may rule that an acquisition is not a backdoor listing if the unlisted company making the acquisition conducts a tender offer.

For PAL, door to big board is open

BAGUIO GOLD HOLDINGS CORP. of Lucio Tan is all set to assume the debts of six holding firms which the tycoon also controls—a move that will open the way for the backdoor listing of flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL).

The six investment firms—Ascot Holdings Inc., Pol Holdings Inc., Cube Factor Holdings Inc., Sierra Holdings and Equities Inc., Network Holdings and Equities Inc., and Maxell Holdings Corp.—collectively hold 82 percent of PAL, which is largely owned by Tan.

The six companies all posted net losses in 2004 and 2005, according to documents filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Baguio Gold said it would pay P136 million, or P1 a share, for the 82-percent indirect stake in PAL within one year from the date of the acquisition deal, the company said in a disclosure to the PSE.

Based on end-2005 financial statements of the firms, the six Tan-led firms had liabilities of P640 million up to P3 billion.

Baguio Gold said that, instead of paying cash to acquire the debts of the six firms, it would issue shares of its stock to the firms' creditor.

The six firms' major creditors is Trustmark Holdings Corp., another Tan-led company.

Trustmark also currently owns 69 percent of Baguio Gold.

As a result of the planned purchase in PAL, Baguio Gold will increase its authorized capital stock to P20 billion from P400 million.

Baguio Gold said that the value of the shares held by its minority shareholders will remain the same.

PAL earlier reported that in its fiscal year ending on March 31, it posted a net income $29 million, an increase of 63 percent from the previous year.

For the fiscal year ending 2007, PAL expects its earnings to weaken to $18 million from $29 million due to higher fuel costs.

The average price a barrel of aviation fuel as of June this year spiked to $77.4 a barrel in 2006 from $69 a barrel in 2005.

PAL's own net income projections assumes oil prices averaging at $75 a barrel for this fiscal year.

Despite the surge in fuel costs, the flag carrier expects to trim its debts by $150 million by the end of its fiscal year 2007 out of cash generated from operations. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

COASTAL ROAD EXTENSION
The Development Bank of the Philippines, Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Equitable PCI Bank, China Banking Corporation and Union Bank have agreed to put up P3.5 billion to finance the extension of the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road. Among those who attended the signing were former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr., Sen. Richard Gordon, Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Congressman Plaridel Abaya, Cesar E.A. Virata, Atty. Jose Luis L. Vera, Reynaldo David and Teresita Sy-Coson.

RP to expand tuna fishing grounds

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOW TRYing to negotiate agreements with the governments of Palau, Micronesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea in an effort to expand the country's fishing grounds, according to Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban.

Officials from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Foreign Affairs are now hammering out bilateral agreements with each of the four Asia-Pacific governments to include new areas of cooperation in aquaculture, capture fisheries through joint venture, fish processing, coastal resource management and research activities among others, Panganiban yesterday said.

"This is one of the key issues we are tackling in order to help the Philippine tuna industry," he said at the start of the two-day Tuna Congress in General Santos City.

Panganiban said that the bilateral fishing agreements would be similar to what the country had recently signed with Indonesia, giving the Philippines access to rich fishing grounds.

In February, the two countries forged a new Memorandum of Understanding on Fisheries Cooperation.

Under the agreement, the country's access to the tuna-rich fishing grounds of Indonesia will be extended until 2011.

Based on the data supplied by the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) over 60 percent, or 276,000 metric tons, of about 400,000 metric tons of tuna that landed here in 2002 was caught in foreign waters.

Almost $1 billion is now circulating in the national economy because of the country's tuna industry, according to GEM.

Fishing industry in Mindanao provides over 100,000 direct jobs, with an additional 50,000 people benefiting from the trade.

"The tuna industry means a lot to the Philippines and the document we signed (with Indonesia) means a lot to the Filipinos—from the fishing crew to the Philippine fishing operators, to the fish processors and traders and exporters," Panganiban said.

Peso still rising . . .

From page B1

government debt paper and equities listed on the stock market.

In the offshore markets, Philippine sovereign dollar bond prices rallied in line with a rebound in Latin American debt but succumbed to profit taking ahead of US jobs data.

The stabilizing political environment, sustained influx of remittances from overseas Filipino workers and the generally upbeat economic outlook on the country were likewise supporting the peso, currency traders said.

On Thursday, the government reported a 5.5-percent growth in gross domestic product for the second quarter, driven by the double-digit growth in export receipts.

"Overall the economy grew respectably if a bit crimped by slower investment. The lingering effects of high oil prices and higher interest rates from the fourth quarter of 2005 could be a factor there," UBS economist Philip Wyatt said in a commentary dated Aug. 31. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Shares . . .

From page B1

and unit Banco de Oro dropped 50 centavos to P36.50 on profit-taking, dealers said.

The two stocks had rallied after SM Investments announced Tuesday that it was offering to buy all shares in Equitable PCI Bank that it does not already own and that it may merge the bank with another, possibly Banco de Oro. Equitable was unchanged at P79.

Food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.'s A-shares were steady at P65.50 and its B-shares flat at P71. *AFP*

BSP survey says firms less optimistic

From page B1

Another dampening factor had something to do with the weather—the onset of the rainy season.

The confidence level was measured based on the diffusion index (DI) or the percentage share of firms that answered in the affirmative minus those that answered negative in a given indicator. A positive DI thus indicates a favorable view when measuring confidence levels.

Based on the same survey, BSP director Iluminada Sicat noted that the confidence index of the business sector looking toward the fourth quarter was much higher at 40.9 percent.

"Respondents expected sales, production and export orders to pick up due to the Christmas holiday and harvest seasons, increased remittances from overseas Filipino workers, increase in infrastructure projects, a boom in the mining sector and better government performance," Sicat said.

Respondents from the National Capital Region anticipated that business would remain strong in the third quarter but slower than the second quarter as their confidence index dropped to 28.2 percent from 35.1 percent in the last survey. However, they were more bullish about the fourth quarter as their confidence index for the next quarter surged to 43.8 percent.

The sentiment of Metro Manila-based firms was mirrored by those doing business in the countryside, whose confidence index for the current quarter slid to 9.4 percent from 25 percent in the previous survey while the index for the next quarter jumped to 35.6 percent.

In terms of specific businesses, companies in the services and construction sectors were most bullish for this quarter as their indices rose by 3.8 points to 47.9 percent and by 7.1 percent to 30 percent, respectively, compared to the previous survey.

The industry and trade sectors maintained a positive view but projected a slowdown in activity as their confidence indices declined by 16.7 percent points to 14 percent and by 15 points to 7.8 percent, respectively, compared to the last quarter.

The optimism from the services sector was driven by the rosier outlook of those engaged in renting and business, which is driven by demand from returning overseas Filipinos (*balikbayans*), and the business process outsourcing firms.

Sicat said hotels and restaurants as well as community and social services likewise indicated a high level of optimism, reflecting the country's rising tourism receipts.

The financial sub-sector, while posting the highest confidence level of 64.7 percent, was lower by 2.5 points relative to the previous survey, pointing to a slowdown in banking and financial activity.

Respondents from all sectors believed that business would be better in the fourth quarter, with the trade sector the most optimistic with its confidence index rising from 28.4 percent to 36.2 percent. The fourth-quarter confidence indices of the industry, services and construction sectors likewise improved by 16.7 points, 14.1 points and 6.6 points, respectively, to 30.7 percent, 62 percent and 36.6 percent.

For the first time since the BSP initiated the quarterly business sentiment survey, more firms indicated that access to credit from financial institutions was easing, with the index reversing to positive 0.5 percent from negative 3.5 percent in the previous quarter.

"The turnaround of access to credit index was due mainly to the positive credit outlook of medium and large firms with confidence indices at 3.2 percent and 0.7 percent, respectively," Sicat said.

But small firms, or those employing less than 100 workers, still found credit to be tight with a confidence index of negative 4.5 percent. Those belonging to this category comprised 34.2 percent of survey respondents.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 1, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36.5	37	36	36.5	4,869,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	54	53	53.5	2,414,700
China Banking Corp.	690	700	690	700	40
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	5,290,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	79.5	79.5	78.5	79	276,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	38.5	38	38.5	421,200
Philippine National Bank	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	7,000
Phil. Savings Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.25	18	17.25	18	32,000
Security Bank Corp.	50	52.5	50	52.5	162,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	45	44.5	45	25,100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.22	2.24	960,000
Filipino Fund Inc	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	20,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30	30.5	30	30.5	9,400
Manulife Financial Corp.	1640	1640	1640	1640	90
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	150,000
Ivantage Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.42	5,324,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	47.5	48.5	47.5	48	3,232,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	43.5	44	43.5	44	1,002,500
Manila Electric Co. A	17	17.25	16.75	17	160,000
Manila Electric Co: B	27	27.5	26.5	27.5	973,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	8.9	9.1	8.9	9	8,228,000
Petron Corp.	4	4.05	4	4.05	4,224,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	15,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.75	23	35,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32.5	32	32.5	1,335,400
Rfm Corp.	0.8	0.88	0.8	0.88	590,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.8	3.8	692,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	64.5	65.5	112,700
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	71	70.5	71	52,500
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	4,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.75	17.75	572,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	410,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.66	1.74	1.66	1.72	2,741,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.95	4.7	4.95	70,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.4	4.3	3.3	4.3	86,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	52,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	19,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.64	0.67	0.63	0.66	111,890,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	16,160,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.33	0.33	0.225	0.33	240,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	122,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	440	450	440	450	231,960
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.55	0.62	0.54	0.58	3,180,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	1,047,000
Alo Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.03	0.03	60,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.82	306,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	7,320,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	16,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.02	1,891,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	19,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	1,564,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.12	1.64	1.12	1.64	2,928,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.14	10,954,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.8	3.8	1,544,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	2,605,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	97,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.9	6	5.9	6	97,000
Jollivilie Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	100,000
Medco Holdings	0.26	0.3	0.26	0.29	1,050,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.36	0.28	0.36	1,560,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	1.5	1.98	1.5	1.98	606,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.44	2.12	1.44	2.12	56,998,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	44,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	230,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	40,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	3,100,000
SM Investments Corp:	220	221	220	220	1,126,550
South China Resources Inc	0.96	1.06	0.96	1.06	2,610,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.12	1.68	1.12	1.68	11,938,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	3,300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	290,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.225	0.155	0.225	80,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	6,742,900
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.02	7,807,000
Cityland Development Corp	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.37	0.33	0.35	10,730,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.28	2.34	2.28	2.34	786,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	2,300,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	21,710,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0725	0.075	0.0675	0.075	35,600,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.44	1.38	1.4	12,426,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.14	0.17	0.14	0.17	1,630,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.165	0.195	0.165	0.18	2,070,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.0075	240,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	57,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.85	0.85	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	3,610,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.019	0.022	0.019	0.02	6,600,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.022	3,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.7	1.76	1.68	1.74	140,454,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.31	970,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	110,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	713,500
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	4,080,000
SM Development Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.66	245,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.9	7.9	1,675,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.67	0.79	0.67	0.74	15,260,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0925	0.1	0.0925	0.1	1,500,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	10,600
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	2,209,000
Globe Telecom, Inc.	985	1000	985	995	115,700
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.95	4.25	3.95	4.15	26,622,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1910	1935	1910	1925	498,990
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	6,390,000
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.021	77,100,000
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	1,270,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.0525	0.055	8,600,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	8,200,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.18	1.48	1.18	1.4	440,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.029	49,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	909,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	1	1	1	1	10,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	1,715,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.7	1.76	1.68	1.76	5,418,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	2,000,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	700,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.9	3	2.9	3	519,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Jth Davies Holdings Inc.	16	16	16	16	100
Macroasia Corp.	2.24	2.34	2.24	2.28	942,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	562,500
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.4	3,436,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	1,295,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.01	0.009	0.0095	1,021,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	9	9.2	8.8	9	11,428,000
Benguet Corp. A	11.5	13	11	12.5	117,200
Benguet Corp. B	28	28	28	28	2,100
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.1	2.16	2.1	2.1	60,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,750,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	5,910,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	10,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	24,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.01	219,800,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.05	4.05	3.95	4	3,159,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.05	4.1	4	4.05	4,467,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	21.75	21.75	21	21.25	645,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.57	500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	280,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	2,300,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	342,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	50,900,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.2	1,098,000
Pnoc Exploration Corp. B	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	1,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	12	12	11.5	11.5	446,400
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	18,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17	17	16	16	22,800

CURRENCIES

September 1, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.780153	1.000000	50.8100
Japan	Yen	0.006647	0.008520	0.4329
United Kingdom	Pound	1.486191	1.905000	96.7931
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100319	0.128589	6.5336
Switzerland	Franc	0.634219	0.812942	41.3056
Canada	Dollar	0.706276	0.905305	45.9985
Singapore	Dollar	0.495871	0.635607	32.2952
Australia	Dollar	0.595400	0.763184	38.7774
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.069536	2.652731	134.7853
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208024	0.266645	13.5482
Brunei	Dollar	0.494299	0.633593	32.1929
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020771	0.026624	1.3528
UAE	Dirham	0.212419	0.272279	13.8345
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.281800	65.1283
Argentina	Peso	0.252069	0.323102	16.4168
Brazil	Real	0.364881	0.467705	23.7641
Denmark	Kroner	0.134090	0.171877	8.7331
India	Rupee	0.016803	0.021538	1.0943
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.211998	0.271739	13.8071
Mexico	New Peso	0.071508	0.091659	4.6572
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510204	0.653979	33.2287
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012916	0.016556	0.8412
South Africa	Rand	0.108778	0.139431	7.0845
Korea	Won	0.000812	0.001041	0.0529
Sweden	Kroner	0.107724	0.138081	7.0159
Syria	Pound	0.015029	0.019264	0.9788
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023706	0.030386	1.5439

BPO firms to seek better coordination with Indian counterparts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL BUSINESS PROCESS outsourcing firms expect to forge cooperation agreements with their Indian counterparts to further grow their outsourcing business.

According to the Business Processing Association Philippines (BPA/P), a 15-member high-level team representing the National Association of Software and Service Companies of India (Nasscom) would arrive on Sunday.

BPA/P chair Rainerio Borja said a three-day business conference, which would serve as a venue for talks between representatives of the two umbrella groups, would highlight the five-day visit.

"We hope to discuss issues and trends affecting the industry and explore opportunities for cooperation between India and the Philippines in promoting growth," Borja said.

"We expect to sign a memorandum of understanding with Nasscom for this purpose," he added.

Borja said the Indian mission would be led by Nasscom president Kiran Karnik, who is credited for setting the direction of India's offshoring industry and building a global brand for the Indian software and service industry.

Karnik, who has held his post since 2001, is also recognized for his efforts in shaping India's outsourcing industry. He works closely with industry and India's central and state governments to formulate policies and strategies for the advancement of the BPO sector.

Last year, industry expert Tully Moss—who is running a consultancy firm that caters to industry players—said the government and private sector should embark on an aggressive international marketing campaign to promote the country as a destination for information and communications technology ventures to realize its full potential.

Moss said the Philippines held the second-largest market share in outsourcing but that the sharing of knowledge about the country was very low.

Experts say the country enjoys an advantage over other contact center locations like India due to competitive costs, a talent pool that is highly educated and naturally service-oriented and its cultural affinity with the major markets like the United States.

FACTORY / OFFICE CANTEEN OPERATOR

A diversified group of companies is interested to buy a company that operates one to three factory and/or office canteens servicing at least 200 employees each.

Interested parties may call Mr. Jaime M. Abraham, Jr. at 551-77-64 or 551-7767 or email to oeap_msj@forzaintegrated.com

PNOC, Samsung in ₱8.2-billion jatropha plantation project

Ambitious plan includes biofuel refinery worth P2.23 billion

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO. ALTERNAtive Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC) yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding with Korea's Samsung Corp. for an P8.2-billion jatropha plantation and refinery project.

The project involves a 120,000-hectare jatropha plantation worth P6 billion and a 200,000-metric ton (MT) biofuel refinery worth P2.23 billion.

Under the MOU, PNOC-AFC and Samsung will jointly prepare the Jatropha-based BioFuel Producing Project's basic plans, including a preliminary feasibility study and sales strategies for the product.

The two companies will tap the services of a third party international consultant in drafting its plans.

"We are targeting the final feasibility report this November, and we are expecting favorable results," PNOC-AFC president and chief executive Peter Anthony Abaya said, adding that both parties wanted to fast-track the project.

Based on the results of the feasibility study, Samsung will arrange the required financing and execute the engineering, procurement and construction of the biodiesel refinery.

The Korean firm will also handle the marketing of the product in overseas markets.

PNOC-AFC targets the establishment of biofuel refineries with a total capacity of 1 million MT, as well as a 700,000-hectare jatropha plantation.

The jatropha plantations will be located primarily in Mindanao, with most of the refineries to be situated there.

According to PNOC-AFC, refineries with a capacity of 60,000 MT a year will get feedstock from 30,000-hectare jatropha plantations, while those with a capacity of 240,000 MT a year will get sufficient raw material supply from plantations with an area of 120,000 hectares.

PNOC-AFC has ongoing negotiations with other prospective joint venture partners and expects to sign more MOUs before year's end.

"We are upbeat about jatropha and we aim to become a prominent alternative fuels-producing company," Abaya said.

The PNOC subsidiary also intends to put up a 50,000-barrels-a-day fuel refinery that will use low-rank coal as feedstock, and a biofuels central terminal facility.

Jatropha, locally known as *tuba-tuba* is described as a drought-resistant perennial shrub whose fruit can be processed into oil.

The oil can be further refined to produce diesel.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier disclosed that Saudi Aramco, the government's partner in Petron Corp., also planned to put up a jatropha processing plant in Mindanao.

Biotech firm to tap IPs of Mindanao

By Christine A. Gaylican

A LOCAL FIRM ENGAGED IN BIOTECHNOLogy plans to get Mindanao's indigenous peoples to supply the primary ingredients for food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and medicine.

Secura International Corp. offers contract-growing arrangements for the supply of ingredients like papain or papaya latex, which the company distributes to various bio-tech firms.

"Mindanao's idle agricultural land can be tapped by IPs to generate more income from farming natural ingredients," said Secura president and chief executive officer Danilo Manayaga during a recent consultation-workshop with leaders of different tribes in Davao on the Economic Opportunities on Agricultural Biotechnology.

This is in relation to Manayaga's plan to supply the Belgian market with papain.

Secura has formed a papain consortium with the help of Department of Agriculture-Biotechnology Information and Organization Network (BIONet).

He said during the consultation that he would need the regular supply of natural ingredients to meet the growing international demand.

According to Manayaga, the Philippines has plant varieties whose enzymes and extracts were in great demand in the United States, Europe, Japan, Korea and China.

According to DA director Alicia Ilaga, modern biotechnology is a $60-billion industry.

The organic products industry, on the other hand, is growing at an average of 3 percent a year, while the demand for natural food ingredients, food supplement and organic food products is growing at an average of 20 percent.

After the consultation, Manayaga signed joint venture agreements with individual farmers, farm corporations and farmers' cooperatives from different parts of the country for the supply of papain.

Secura, which produces powdered and liquid extracts from valuable fruits, plant and vegetables, resources is offering to partner with local government units and local entrepreneurs and farmers' cooperatives interested in venturing into the supply of the firm's raw materials.

Establishing a subsidiary engaged in plant genetics, the company could now diversify into the agri-biotechnology field as a manufacturer of enzymes, essential oils and plant extracts, he noted.

The company's products include "Papain" (from Papaya) and Bromelain (from pineapple).

Extracts from these fruits, according to Manayaga, are used in the personal care and pharmaceutical industries.

Pineapples can produce enzymes that are used to treat cancer.

He also said that extracts from *banaba*, *lagundi*, *saluyot*, aloe-vera and mushrooms have a big market in Europe.

The Department of Agriculture's Bio-tech Program is targeting Mindanao as the center of a natural ingredients industry, which it plans to develop as part of the government's anti-poverty program.

METRO PACIFIC
thinking ahead

NOTICE TO METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION STOCKHOLDERS

Please be informed that on August 23, 2006, the Securities and Exchange Commission approved the application of Metro Pacific Corporation (The Corporation) for equity restructuring through a decrease in the Corporation's authorized capital stock. This will result in a corresponding decrease in the Corporation's issued and outstanding common stock from 19,053,473,157 to approximately 952,673,657 common shares and will be effected through the consolidation of every 20 shares into 1 share. With the approval, a stockholder who owns One Hundred (100) common shares with par value of P1.00 each will now have Five (5) common shares with par value of P1.00 each. For resulting fractional shares, however, the Corporation has adopted the policy of rounding-up each fractional share.

Except for the decrease in the number of shares held, each stockholder shall enjoy the same rights and privileges in respect of the modified common shares.

Please be advised that the Corporation will now issue new stock certificates to the stockholders as of August 23, 2006 indicating the duly reduced number of shares. Starting on September 04, 2006, you may surrender your old stock certificates to our transfer agent Stock Transfer Service, Inc. attn: Ms. Ofel Racpan / Richard Regala, 8th Floor Phinma Plaza 39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center Makati City (Tel. No. 898-7555), from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM and from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM to claim your new certificate(s).

METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.:

Please be advised that SM Investments Corporation, in consortium with Shoemart, Inc., Multi-Realty Development Corporation, Sysmart Corp., Syntrix Holdings, Inc., and Sybase Equity Investments Corp. (collectively, the "Bidder") has filed a Tender Offer Report in SEC Form 19-1 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") and the Philippines Stock Exchange (the "PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code in connection with its intention to acquire all of the 318,680,000 outstanding common shares (the "Shares") of Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. ("EPCIB").

The Bidder has commenced a negotiated sale over 78,807,098 Shares (equivalent to 10.84%) owned by EBC Investments, Inc. which shall be purchased under the same terms as the Tender Offer. Additionally, the Bidder, its affiliates and related interests presently own 34% of the Shares. Consequently, the subject of this Tender Offer is 401,015,110 Shares representing 55.16% of the Shares.

The offer price for the acquisition of the Shares is P92.00 per share or a total consideration of P36,893,390,120.00 and will be payable in accordance with the terms of payment indicated in the Terms of the Tender Offer. The Consideration shall be payable as follows: ten percent (10%) on Settlement Date or on October 2, 2006, ten percent (10%) on June 2, 2007, ten percent (10%) on February 2, 2008, the remaining balance to be paid on October 2, 2008. Should any of the payment dates fall on a holiday or a non-trading day, the payment of the relevant Consideration shall be made on the next business day.

The Bidder shall acquire any Shares that may be tendered by any stockholder of EPCIB in response to the Tender Offer. The Tender Offer shall commence on August 31, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. and shall end on September 28, 2006 at 12:00 noon (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period may be extended by the Buyer subject to prior approval of the Commission. The Shares to be tendered are intended to be crossed at the PSE on October 2, 2006 (the "Cross Date"). Settlement Date shall be on the same date.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Bidder may do so by securing an Application to Tender Shares form (the "Application Form") from and submitting a duly accomplished Application Form together with the documentary requirements to the Transaction Broker, BDO Securities Corporation at 11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium, #27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City, Philippines.

The Transaction Broker reserves the right to require the tendering stockholder to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibility and acceptability of the Shares being tendered by the stockholder pursuant to the Offer.

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Bidder must be received by the Tender Offer Agent in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of September 28, 2006. Shares received thereafter or without the required documents shall be rejected by the Bidder.

The Shares tendered may be withdrawn by the stockholder of record at any time during the tender offer period by submitting a written request for the tendered Shares to the Tender Offer Agent and surrendering the original Securities In-Receipt issued by the Tender Offer Agent/Transaction Broker. The last day to withdraw tendered Shares shall be on Thursday, September 28, 2006 at 12 noon.

The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Buyer for payment on September 28, 2006 at 12:00 noon (the "Closing Date") subject to the condition that the Bidder shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Bidder of the Shares.

Stockholders are advised to read the Application Form, the Terms of the Tender Offer, and the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Bidder with the Commission. For queries, please call the Transaction Broker at contact details set forth below. Copies of the Application Form and the SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by the stockholders of the EPCIB, free of charge, from the following:

BDO Securities Corp.
11th Floor,
The JMT Corporate Condominium,
No. 27 ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Attention:
Janet D. Amora
Tel. No.: 687-3708

Attention:
Jasper M. Jimenez
Tel. No.: 687-3628

BDO Capital & Investment Corp.
11th Floor,
The JMT Corporate Condominium,
No. 27 ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Attention:
Francisco Eduardo A. Sarmiento
Tel. No.: 633-6756

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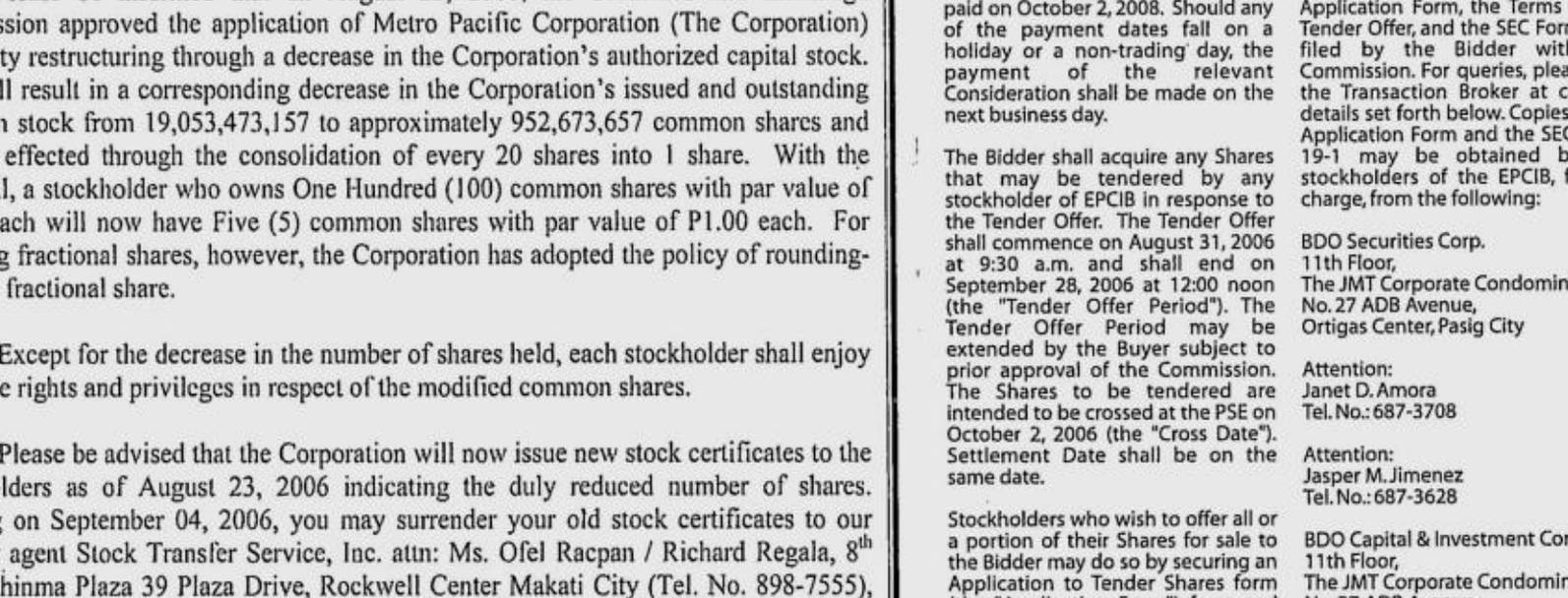

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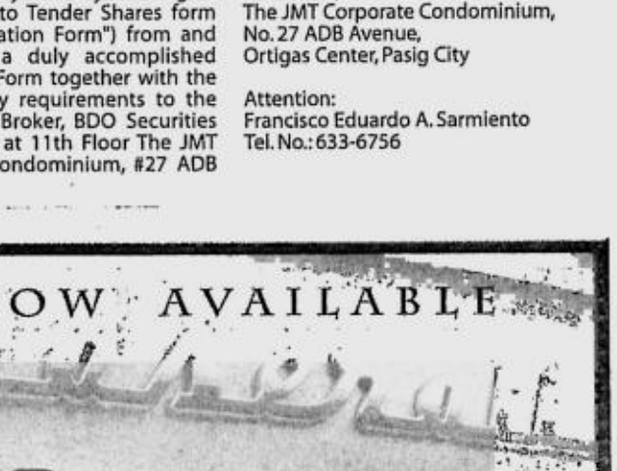

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

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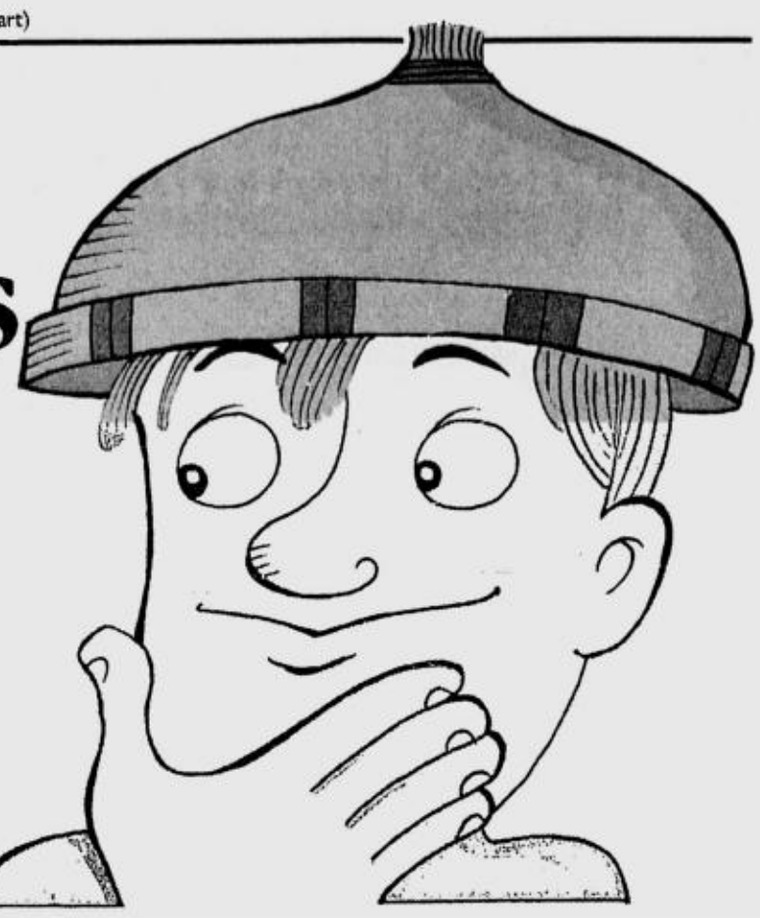
Hormone doctors campaign for awareness



By Tessa R. Salazar

HORMONES ARE CELlular messengers and there are more than 50 of them inside the body. A hormone is a chemical substance that is secreted into body fluids and transported to another organ, where it produces a specific effect on metabolism.

A hormonal imbalance affects all the target organs—and the whole system down the line.

The good news is that there are doctors who subspecialize in treating hormonal imbalances. These doctors, known as endocrinologists, not only treat symptoms of hormonal imbalance but go straight to root causes—to the hormones that carry the faulty message, or the endocrine glands where the faulty messengers originate.

Endocrinologists have specialized methods of treating hormones and endocrine glands.

How important is the endocrine system? It can explain why a person is hypertensive, for instance.

Hormonal imbalance

Sometimes, a woman's inability to produce eggs can be traced to hormonal imbalance.

For endocrinologists, diabetes in its early stages can be managed by the patient's endocrine system. Endocrinologists can also explain why a country fond of iodine still has a high prevalence of thyroidism, any disorder affecting the thyroid gland.

These endocrinologists, as the messengers themselves, don't seem to be coming through, however. This "hormonal imbalance" in society has resulted in not many people knowing the importance of endocrines, hormones and endocrinologists. And it is for this reason that a super "gland" of endocrinologists—the Philippine chapter of the American College of Clinical Endocrinologists—was recently launched to help promote endocrine health and wellness to the Filipino community.

Awareness campaign

This Philippine chapter hopes to put things in order by implementing community awareness using lay projects that include education on diabetes, thyroid, osteoporosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome, menopause and fertility.

The group has 60 members spearheaded by Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua, George B. Tan, Maria Honolina S. Gomez, Estrellita V. Fernando-Lopez and Joy Arabelle Castillo-Fontanilla.

The group's major project is to create a registry so its members could gather as much data as possible to determine the existence and prevalence of endocrine diseases in the Philippines.

"Our project's aim is to gather (frequently ignored) Philippine data that we could bring to the United States, such as prevalence studies for pituitary tumors," says Tan.

He adds that with the kind of awareness campaign that the doctors are planning, the group might come up with a registry in the next 12 months.

Tan, however, concedes that it would be easier said than done. "The Philippines is weak when it comes to different registries since you need a lot of support mechanisms."

Objectives, plans

Among the group's objectives are collegiality (collaboration and sharing of expertise, knowledge and resources), compassion (for greater accessibility to quality endocrine healthcare services); creativity (to continuously seek new and better ways to improve endocrine health care in the Philippines; and credibility (uphold competence and trustworthiness and pursue excellence).

The group plans to create links with the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism and other medical and relevant organizations.

For its doctors, the group also plans continuing medical education, such as producing lectures to uplift the standards on endocrine health care. Tan estimates that there are 150 to 160 endocrinologists in the country.

He says the group would also like to incorporate endocrinology in the grassroots level by establishing links with the department of education.

"The US AACE teaches children how to be health conscious so they could avoid hormonal imbalances in the future," Tan says.

'What's in a name?'

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

BACK IN 1998 WISCONSIN'S BEloit College began compiling a "mindset list" to give people a general overview of the world in which the average 18-year-old incoming college freshman had been raised. That first list for the Class of 2002 for example noted that the incoming college freshmen were born in 1980 and therefore had only ever known of one Pope, had never lived in a time when AIDS did not exist, and have always been able to watch the MTV channel.

This year's recently released list for the incoming Class of 2010 has equally interesting trivia. The average incoming college freshman in the United States will never have studied world geography and see two Germanys or the Soviet Union on the map. For that matter, the Class of 2009 (those born in 1987) marked the first generation of students who had never known Marcos as the president of the Philippines.

It's quite likely that one of the statements on the mindset list of the Class of 2026 will note that this batch of college students will never have been taught that the solar system has nine planets.

Pluto's size

Last week the International Astronomical Union (IAU) decided that though it had been classified a planet for the past 76 years, Pluto wasn't really one. Though the IAU officially stated in 1999 that Pluto's status was not question, the discovery of a possible tenth planet in 1995 had at the very least started the discussion so recently resolved. Pluto's size might have been one issue: it's about two-thirds the size of Mercury, now officially the smallest planet in the solar system. Another topic of discussion may have been its orbit. The orbits of eight planets are like concentric circles around the sun while Pluto's orbit is on a different plane from them.

The debate over Pluto's status primarily involved Division III of the IAU, which deals with Planetary Systems Sciences. On Aug. 24 however, during the IAU's 26th general assembly, the organization passed Resolutions 5A and 6A, which affect science textbooks everywhere.

The first part of Resolution 5A deals with the definition of a planet: it must orbit the sun, it must have enough gravity of its own to be round, and must have a clear orbit free of other objects in its path. Pluto's demotion stems from the last criterion since its orbit passes through the Kuiper belt and encounters trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs), so named for their location beyond Neptune.

PLUTO

Distinct definition

The second part of the resolution then provides a separate and distinct definition of a "dwarf planet," which must meet the same 3 criteria above and must not be a satellite. Based on the definitions above, Resolution 6A recognizes Pluto as a "dwarf planet" and the first of a new class of TNOs. (Apparently there were plans to make Pluto the first of the so-called "Plutonian"-class objects, but that idea didn't get enough votes to pass.) Joining Pluto in this category are the asteroid Ceres and that 10th-planet-that-wasn't called 2003 UB313. The latter's name stems from the fact that it was discovered in January 2005 while the astronomers were reanalyzing data collected in October 2003. Now that the "dwarf planet" has been classified as such, it is expected to receive a name; in the meantime it has been nicknamed Xena after the television character.

The IAU says there are about a dozen other objects that could soon be granted "dwarf planet" status, and there are likely to be more that have yet to be discovered. This means the solar system may expand again. In the meantime, as texts and classes undertake the transition from a 9-planet solar system to one with 8 planets and 3 "dwarf planets," there is a need to come up with a way to remember all of their names. One version of the previous mnemonic to remember the 9 planets was "My Very Eager Mother Just Sent Us Nine Pizzas." Any suggestions for a mnemonic that encompasses MVEMJSUN (PC2003) would be appreciated."

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

The healing power of herbs and sea snail toxins

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

JENNIFER SITJAR [jhen_chm@yahoo.com] sends this heartwarming message: Your words of wisdom make my Saturdays complete. I share much information with my Chemistry class, especially in Math. I hope you can feature Filipino chemists. I thank you for inspiring me to live my life to the fullest! Teaching is my new-found passion! I love being with my *mga anak*. It's a great opportunity to be of service to our Filipino youth. Godspeed!

Thank you for your support, and congratulations on your new mission. Teaching is indeed fulfilling, and as they say, the noblest profession of all. As for your request, we have many outstanding Filipino chemists, which can easily be found through Google. Today I share with you two chemists from my book "Ten Outstanding Filipino Scientists" (Anvil, 2000). I am proud to call them friends.

Famous specialist

Dr. Lourdes "Luly" Cruz, a biochemist, is a world-renowned specialist on the venom of conus snails, which abound in Philippine waters. These snails use poison to protect themselves against predators and to paralyze prey, and their venom is deadlier than that of the cobra. From her base at the Marine Science Institute at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Dr. Cruz has spent most of her career analyzing this area.

The venom affects our nervous system, and of course, it has killed people (including careless fisherfolk). But this deadly poison can also be beneficial. It has been used as a diagnostic tool for small cell carcinoma of the lung, and experiments are underway to determine if it can be used to help stroke patients. The poison can ironically also become a drug. Since the venom contains substances targeted to specific sites, then it may have fewer side effects than ordinary drugs, whose effects are not limited to one site.

Research and funding in the country remain a challenge, but Dr. Cruz is not fazed. In fact, her group has already identified more than 200 toxins from around 30 species. "But there are more than 200 species in Philippine waters alone!" she laughs. "There is still so much to be discovered."

Healing powers

Speaking of drugs, Dr. Fabian "Toby" Dayrit, son of outstanding physician, herbal medicine and coconut oil researcher Dr. Conrado Dayrit, has also investigated the healing powers of local herbs. Dr. Dayrit is also the Dean of the Ateneo School of Science and Engineering. Many years ago, Toby and his team already worked on lagundi, ampalaya, malunggay, achuete, dita and Cinchona trees.

Take the lagundi shrub, with blue flowers, small black fruit and leaves arranged like the palm of the hand. Toby has lagundi shrubs in his backyard, and when he has a cold, he boils the leaves, adds luya and calamansi, and drinks the tea. The leaves can also heal wounds and clean ulcers, provide aromatic baths, bring down inflammations and rheumatic swellings. The roots can aid indigestion, leprosy, hemorrhage. The flowers supposedly help the heart, the fruit the eyes, the seeds the skin, the oil the sinuses.

Making a difference

But Dr. Dayrit is careful. "Choosing between synthetic drugs and herbal treatments is not either-or. However expensive they may sometimes be, manufactured medicines have been proven to work for certain diseases. Although herbal products may work, if we were to rely solely on natural sources for our medicines, we may not have enough. For example, although we can obtain the starting material for aspirin from trees, we will probably not get enough. Thus, we had to chemically synthesize aspirin to meet demand."

Like Dr. Cruz, who studies other organisms (anticancer effects of green algae and anti-TB effects of other marine life), Dr. Dayrit is also active in other fields, such as instrumentation and the environment. "In this century, human resources are our most viable resources, and people who can handle science and technology can make a difference. There is a lifetime of interesting things here."

"Ten Outstanding Filipino Scientists" is available in most bookstores. Or call Anvil Publishing at 637-3621, 637-5141, 747-1622.

* * *

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Drug combination boosts survival rate in head, neck cancers

By Charles E. Buban

SUSTAINED RESEARCH OF DRUGS already in the market is proving beneficial as one drug approved for treatment of breast and lung cancer, is found to dramatically improve the survival of patients with advanced head and neck cancer.

Researchers from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School reported that adding the drug docetaxel (Taxotere) to the standard two-drug chemotherapy combination improved their patients' chance of survival by 30 percent.

The findings were presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology's annual meeting.

"The result is very encouraging considering that the long-term survival rates in head and neck cancer have not increased significantly over the past several years and in fact, among the lowest of the major cancers worldwide," said Cheryl Ann Serrano, corporate communications manager of Sanofi-Aventis (Philippines), the maker of docetaxel.

Wide range

The term "head and neck cancer" encompasses a wide range of tumors that occur in several areas of the head and neck region, including the nasal passages, sinuses, mouth, throat, larynx (voice box), swallowing passages, salivary glands and the thyroid gland. Skin cancers that develop on the scalp, face, or neck may also be considered head and neck cancers.

The international trial involved 538 patients with advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck, which represents more than 90 percent of all head and neck cancers. Half of the group were treated with docetaxel/cisplatin/fluorouracil while the other half received the standard two-drug regimen of cisplatin/fluorouracil.

All patients were then treated with the chemotherapy agent carboplatin, radiation therapy, and in some cases, surgery.

Researchers reported that survival estimates for three years showed that the addition of docetaxel reduced the risk of mortality by 30 percent. In three years, 62 percent of patients treated with the three-drug regimen were alive, compared with only 48 percent of patients that received the standard treatment.

Researchers also noted that the side effects—mouth sores, nausea, vomiting and low blood cell level—were comparable between the two treatment groups.

Continuous evaluation

For years, researchers have continuously evaluated new and existing therapeutic and chemotherapy combinations to determine optimal treatment strategies for patients afflicted with advanced head and neck cancer.

"In all likelihood the result will translate into a significantly more effective treatment. Finding our a new and better treatment regimen is significant, considering head and neck cancers affect vital areas, such as the mouth and throat and maintaining the function of these parts is an important consideration," Serrano said.

Furthermore, she noted that a number of patients with cancer on these parts cannot be operated on (to remove tumors) and usually had to resort to radiation, which may not be very effective as the cancer is still in progress at some point.

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute that was involved in the study is a principal teaching affiliate of the Harvard Medical School and is among the leading cancer research and care centers in the United States.

BTS Clips

Print Phils '06

JOHN L. CHOA, SECRETARY general and past president of the Printing Industries Association of the Philippines, announced that "Print Philippines '06" will be held on Sept. 7 to 9, at the Philippine Trade Training Center, (PTTC) co-organized with Philippine Printing Technical Foundation (PPTF). Theme of the show is, "Exploring New Ideas and Technologies in Print". It is a printing show that encompasses all aspects of the Printing Industry. The highlights of the events includes more than 10,000 products and technology on display over 140 booths, featuring a new technology to be introduced to the Philippine market and interesting technical seminars and product presentations. On Sept. 7, The Printing Industries Association of the Phils will hold its General Membership Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Fabulous Jumbo Kingdom Floating Restaurant at the back of Folk Arts Theater inside CCP Complex which will be sponsored by Ideal Marketing and Manufacturing Corp.

CKSC HS '82 batch directory

CHIANG KAI SHEK COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL batch '82, in preparation of their 2007 silver jubilee grand alumni homecoming, is updating our batch directory. Text Bonnie at 0916-7535609 or send e-mail to cksc82@yahoo.com.

CFSI celebrates 25th year

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (CFSI), a Philippine-based humanitarian organization will celebrate its 25th year of "rebuilding lives" in both domestic and international settings on Sept. 12, at the Dusit Hotel Nikko. To mark the occasion of its 25th year, CFSI have invited Mrs Sadako Ogata, formerly the UN High Commissioner for refugees and is currently the president of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) to be the guest of honor.

Manila Miracle Revival 2006

ON SEPT. 6 TO 9, EVANGELIST RONY TAN AND the team from Singapore will be at the Cuneta Astrodome for a four-day healing meeting. Don't let this opportunity pass. Seize the moment, come to the Manila Miracle Revival 2006 at Cuneta Astrodome from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and experience the wonderful touch of Jesus Christ.

FPSI celebrates 28th year

FIRST PHILIPPINE SCALE, INC (FPSI), THE COUNtry's number one manufacturer of accurate and dependable weighing devices and maker of Fuji scales is celebrating its 28th year in the business. It is the leading manufacturer of mechanical scales in the Philippines, supplying 60 percent of the local market in Metro Manila and throughout the country. For its 28th anniversary, FPSI is having a month long promo of "Buy 23 Get 1 Free". For every purchase of 23 scales of the same kind, buyers are then given 1 free scale of the same kind. Promo starts from Aug. 21 to Sept. 21. Visit them on Sept. 6 to 9 at the Asia Food Expo 2006 at the World Trade Center for their complete line of mechanical and digital scales. For more info contact FPSI at 361-1846; 361-9602; 361-1331 or 361-2262. Visit www.timbangan.ph.

17th Philippine Travel Mart

IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT THRUST TO promote the Philippines as a healthcare and wellness hub, the Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa) unfolds on Sept. 8 to 10, the 17th Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) with this year's theme: "Health and Wellness - The Next frontier ". The event will be held at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, and the event is co-presented by Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCCI), Quezon City Government and Clinica Manila. Highlights of the events are: Best Cultural Presentation, Best Photo Contest, and the Bituin ng Kasuotang Filipino. A special feature for this year is the "Sale ng Bayan" promo, wherein hundreds of domestic tourism packages will be on sale. For inquiries, call PTMs event organizer (Global Visions) at 637-1257/635-0350.

3rd Asean Quiz

OFFICIALLY ENDORSED BY REGIONAL DIRECTORS of The Department of Education, the following students competed in the Asean National Quiz Competition on Aug. 5, at NBN Studio: Jay-Ar Alejandro (NCR); Jennifer Rebutan (Region 1); Jeff Rey Panaligan (Region 2); Rodney Baricas (Region 3); Rheynalyn Triviño (Calabarzon); Jaan Ruy Conrad Nogot (Mimarpoa) Jennifer Bendal (Region 5); Jose Kreisher Rae Foscalbo (Region 6); Marchie Siaboc (Region 7); Ruth Janine Bertulfo (Region 8); Cecil Ann Eyas (Region 9); Jonas Marie Dumdum (Region 10); Lalaine Cyril Ragonton (Region 11); Meagan Michelle Alegado (Region 12); Freda Marie Pueblos (Region 13); and Karla Mae Jalad (CAR). The national competition will determine the official Philippine delegation to the 3rd Regional Asean Quiz. Top three scorers will compose the Philippine team and will compete with students from other Asean member countries for the 3rd Regional Asean Quiz to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sept. 16 to 20. In addition to the trip to Malaysia, winners will each receive a Presidential medal, trophy for their school and cash prize.

UP-PGH postgrad course

THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY Medicine of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital will be holding its Annual Postgraduate course entitled "Medical Praxis in Families and Communities" to be held on Sept. 14 to 16, at the Hotel and Restaurant Management Training Center, St. Paul University Manila. This event aims to help practicing family physicians as well as resident physicians and paramedical personnel in training to learn and develop skills and knowledge that will be of benefit to their patients and areas of practice. Interested parties are requested to call Dr. Aileen B. Pascual, chief resident; or Michelle Allasco, secretariat at 521-8450 local 5303 or 523-2358.

'Ballet Favorites' slated

THE EFFIE NAÑAS DANCENTRE IS PLEASED TO announce its upcoming ballet concert entitled "Ballet Favorites" to be held on September 17, 2006, 6:30 P.M. at the Teatro Aguinaldo, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Highlights of the show are some excerpts from Sleeping Beauty including Jewel and a Grand Pas de Deux of Aurora's Wedding; aside from these, excerpts from Chorus Line will also be performed by the some of the school's talented ballet and jazz students. For more inquiries, call 633-7871 or visit the Effie Nañas DanCentre studio located at the 4th level of Shangri-la Plaza Mall. Mandaluyong.

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS OF PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 14, 2007 SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

x----------x

ABALOS, Benjamin S. — Chairman
BORRA, Resurreccion Z. — Commissioner
TUASON Jr., Florentino A. — Commissioner
BRAWNER, Romeo A. — Commissioner
SARMIENTO, Rene V. — Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T. — Commissioner

Promulgated: 30 August 2006

RESOLUTION NO. 7707

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code (B.P. Blg. 881), Republic Act No. 6646, 7166, 8189, 8436, 9189 and other election laws, the Commission on Elections **RESOLVED** to prescribe as it hereby prescribes the following Calendar of Activities and Periods of Prohibited Acts in connection with the May 4, 2007 synchronized national and local elections:

DATE/PERIOD	ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS
July 26, 2006 (WED) to August 12, 2007 (SUN) (Comelec Resolution No. 7686 dated July 17, 2006)		Prohibition on the transfer, promotion, extension, recall of any member of the foreign service corps, including members of the attached agencies, or the movement of any such member form his current post or position
September 30, 2006 (SAT)	Last day to file application for registration / certification as overseas absentee voter and application to vote in *absentia* (Section 4, Comelec Resolution No. 7447 dated 18 March 2005).	
	Last day for filing of application for transfer of overseas registration record from one Post' to another or from one country to another under the same consular jurisdiction of the Post or from Post to a Philippine city/ municipality other than the original residence of the applicant (Sec. 19 (A) (B) and (D), Comelec Resolution No. 7447 dated 18 March 2005).	
September 16, 2006 (SAT)	Last day to file petitions for registration of political parties, parties, coalitions of parties and sectoral groups participating in the party-list system of representation	
October 31, 2006 (TUE)	Last day to file application for transfer of overseas registration record from Post to the same Philippine city / municipality comprising original residence of applicant (Sec. 19 (C), Comelec Resolution No. 7447 dated 18 March 2005).	
November 21, 2006 (TUE)	Last day of hearing of applications for registration/certification as overseas absentee voter (Section 12, Comelec Resolution No. 7447 dated 18 March 2005)	
December 15, 2006 (FRI)	Last day to prepare the National Registry of Overseas Absentee Voters (NROAV) (Section 17, Comelec Resolution No. 7447 dated 18 March 2005)	

' Refers to the Philippine embassies, consulates, foreign service establishments and other Philippine government agencies maintaining offices abroad having consular jurisdiction over the places where the overseas absentee voter temporarily resides. See Sec. 2 (s), Comelec Resolution No. 7447 dated 18 March 2005.

DATE/PERIOD	ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS
Not earlier than November 30, 2006 (THU)	Party convention to select and nominate official candidates for all positions (Sec 6. RA 7166 in relation to Sec. 29, RA 6646)	
December 29, 2006 (FRI)	Filing of petitions for exclusion of registration record of an overseas absentee voter: a) If approved by the local ERB in connection with the 10 May 2004 Elections, with the proper Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Court; b) If approved by the RERB, with the MTC-Manila	
	Last day to file application for reinstatement or correction of name of voters excluded from the NROAV through inadvertence or registered with an erroneous or misspelled name.	
December 31, 2006 (SUN)	Last day to file application for registration, transfer of registration records, etc. (Local registry)	
January 12, 2007 (FRI)	Last day to hear applications for registration, transfer of registration records, etc. (Local registry)	
Not later than January 14, 2007 (SUN)	Last day to prepare the Certified List of Overseas Absentee Voters (CLOAV) (Sec. 21, Comelec Resolution No. 7447 dated 18 March 2005)	
January 14, 2007 (SUN) to June 13, 2007 (WED)	**ELECTION PERIOD**	Alteration of territory of a precinct or establishment of a new precinct (Sec. 5, RA 8189); Bearing, carrying or transporting firearms or other deadly weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyance, even if licensed to possess or carry the same, unless authorized in writing by the Commission (Sec. 261 (p) (q) (s), OEC as amended by Sec. 32, RA 7166). Suspension of elective local officials (Sec. 261 (x), OEC) Transfer of officers and employees in the civil service (Sec. 261 (h), OEC) Organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces or other similar forces (sec. 261 (u), OEC). Use of security personnel or bodyguards by candidates, whether or not such bodyguards are regular members of the AFP or PNP or other law enforcement agency (Sec. 261 (t), OEC, as amended by Sec. 33, RA 7166).
January 15, 2007 (MON) to February 12, 2007 (MON)	Period to file certificate of candidacy for Senators Period to file manifestation of intent to participate in the party-list system of representation.	
January 15, 2007 (MON) to March 29, 2007 (THU)	Period to file certificate of candidacy for local elective positions	
January 28, 2007 (SUN)	Last day to file petition for inclusion of qualified voters in the local registry	
February 02, 2007 (SUN)	Last day to file petition for exclusion of qualified voters in the local registry	
February 13, 2007 (TUE)	Posting of the certified list of voters (Local)	
February 13, 2007 (TUE) to May 12, 2007 (SAT)	Campaign period for Senators and political parties, organizations or coalitions participating under the party-list system of election (Sec. 5, RA 7166; Sec. 4, RA 7941)	
February 13, 2007 (TUE) to May 14, 2007 (MON)		Giving of donations or gift in cash or in kind, etc. (SEc. 104, OEC) Use of armored land, water or aircraft (Sec. 261 (r), OEC) Appointment or use of special policemen, special/confidential agents or the like (Sec. 261 (m), OEC)
February 28, 2007 (WED)	Last day to appoint members of the Boards of Election Inspectors, subject to changes on account of lack of public school teachers and disqualifications due to relationships to candidates (Sec. 164, OEC in relation to Sec. 31,. RA 8189)	
March 15, 2007 (THU) to March 29, 2007 (THU)	Issuance and sending of notices of inspection and verification of completeness of VRRs for each precinct book of voters (Sec. 31, RA 8189)	
March 15, 2007 (THU) to June 13, 2007 (WED)		Illegal release of prisoners (Sec. 261 (n), OEC)
March 30, 2007 (FRI)	Last day for party-list participants to submit names of nominees	
March 30, 2007 (FRI) to April 14, 2007 (SAT)	Inspection, verification and sealing of precinct book of voters. (Sec. 31, RA 8189)	
March 30, 2007 (FRI) to May 12, 2007 (SAT)	Campaign period for candidates for Member, House of Representatives, and elective provincial, city and municipal offices (Sec. 5, RA 7166)	
March 30, 2007 (FRI) to May 14, 2007 (MON)		Appointment or hiring of new employees; creation or filling up of new positions; promotion or giving of salary increases, remuneration or privilege (Sec. 261 (g), OEC) Construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants or similar devices for a future undertaking chargeable against public funds (Sec. 261 (w), OEC). Releases, disbursements or expenditures of public funds public works, social services and development (Sec. 261 (v), OBC)
Not later than February 15, 2007 (THU)	Constitution of the members of SBRCGs, SBEIs, and SBOCs.	
April 05, 2007 (THU) and April 06, 2007 (FRI)		Campaigning
April 09, 2007 (MON)	Constitution of Municipal/City/District/ Provincial Boards of Canvassers	
April 14, 2007 (SAT)	Last day to furnish every registered voter with a Voter's Information Sheet which contains the voter's name, address, precinct, place where he is registered and simplified instructions as to casting of votes, an official sample ballot and a list of all registered national, provincial and city candidates to be voted for in the election (Sec. 1, RA 7904)	
April 14, 2007 (SAT) (Host country time) to May 14, 2007 (MON) (Philippine time)	Casting of votes for overseas absentee voters (On any day starting on April 14, 2007 to 3:00 p.m. of May 14, 2007 (Philippine time)	
May 13, 2007 (SUN) (EVE OF ELECTION DAY)		Campaigning (Sec. 3, OEC) Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor (Sec. 261 (dd)(1), OEC) Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC)
May 14, 2007 (MON) (ELECTION DAY)	Casting of Votes (Local) (7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)	Campaigning (Sec. 3, OEC) Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor (Sec. 261 (dd)(1), OEC) Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC) Soliciting votes or undertaking any propaganda for or against any candidate or any political party within the polling place or within thirty (30) meters thereof (Sec. 261(cc), OEC) Voting more than once or in substitution of another (Sec. 261 (z)(2) and (3), OEC) Holding of fairs, cockfights, boxing, horse races or similar sports (Sec 261 (dd), OEC) Opening of booths or stalls for the sale, etc., of merchandise or refreshments within a radius of thirty meters from the polling place (Sec 261 (dd), OEC)
	Convening of the Municipal/City/ Provincial and District Boards of Canvassers and Special Boards of Canvassers (SBOCs) (6:00 p.m. Philippine time)	
May 15, 2007 (TUE) to June 13, 2007 (WED)	Filing of Sworn Statement of Election Contributions and Expenditures (Sec. 14, RA 7166)	

This Resolution shall take effect seven (7) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution and shall furnish copies thereof to all Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors, Election Officers and all Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Agencies deputized by the Commission, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies maintaining offices abroad.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

(PDI - Sept. 2, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Camarines Sur Provincial Office

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

TO ALL CONCERNED REGISTERED OWNERS:

Pursuant to (DAR) Administrative Order No. 02, Series of 2005, in relation to section 7 of RA 6657, and Presidential Decree No. 27, you are hereby notified that the hereunder listed landholdings as indicated are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, to wit:

	Name of Landowner	Mode of Acquisition	Area	Title No./TD No.	Location
1	CECILIA BENOSA	CA	6.1629	OCT-RT-2174 (27344)	AGDANGAN, BAAO, C.S.
2	PRISCO D. REGASPI	CA	11.9002	TCT-10024/LOT 4743,CAD-298-D	PAGATPATAN, BATO, C.S.
3	HRS. OF PEDRO ADUVISO	CA	23.0130	OCT-HRP-6952(1498)	SAN ISIDRO, BATO, C.S.
4	HRS. OF NICOLASA BONGALON	CA	23.1663	T-7934	PAGATPATAN, BATO, C.S.
5	HRS. OF LEOVIGILDO PEÑAFUEN MORALES	CA	22.2439	TCT-3817	CASTILLO, CABUSAO, C.S.
6	PEDRO LERUM	CA	5.0957	OCT-9593	PANDAN, CABUSAO, C.S.
7	HRS. OF PEDRO PURAL, JR & ANGELITA PURAL-TOTANES	CA	8.6041	TCT-18709	PANDAN, CABUSAO, C.S.
8	HRS. OF PEDRO PURAL, JR & ANGELITA PURAL-TOTANES	CA	18.1412	TCT-18770	PANDAN, CABUSAO, C.S.
9	HRS. OF GAUDENCIO CAMAIN	CA	16.1966	TCT-10925	CAMAGONG, CABUSAO, C.S.
10	SALUD BLANCAFLOR	CA	15.8580	TD-024-0083/LOT NO. 11684	QUINALE, CALABANGA, C.S.
11	SALUD BLANCAFLOR	CA	12.7200	TD-024-0079/LOT 11682	QUINALE, CALABANGA, C.S.
12	WILFREDO DANABAR	CA	6.0000	TD-024-0010	QUINALE, CALABANGA, C.S.
13	WILFREDO DANABAR	CA	6.1022	TD-024-0009	QUINALE, CALABANGA, C.S.
14	HONESTO TRIA & ROSIE FALCON	CA	5.6266	TCT-2236	BINALIW, CALABANGA, C.S.
15	JUAN VERDAD	CA	13.4720	TD-009-0034	BURABOD, CALABANGA, C.S.
16	APOLINARIO TERELEJOS	CA	14.9101	TD-048-002	TOMAGOOTOD, CALABANGA, C.S.
17	CRISANTO HUIT	CA	51.2473	OCT-3812	GATA, CARAMOAN, C.S.
18	HRS. OF JUAN GARCIA & MARIA GARCIA, ET. AL.	CA	91.7727	OCT-490	CAGNIPA GUIJALO, CARAMOAN, C.S.
19	LINO MARTO	CA	10.0245	RP-4808	GUIJALO, CARAMOAN, C.S.
20	TOMAS RUELO	CA	14.3624	TCT-4617	MANDICLUM, CARAMOAN, C.S.
21	HRS. OF DAVID SERRANO	CA	8.3287	RT-2474 (7791)	MANDICLUM, CARAMOAN, C.S.
22	ADELINA ALVAREZ	CA	10.3836	OCT-635/TD-030-050	ORING, CARAMOAN, C.S.
23	VICENTE ALVAREZ, HRS. OF	CA	10.8845	TD-030-052	ORING, CARAMOAN, C.S.
24	ADELINA ALVAREZ	CA	10.1540	OCT-635/TD-030-050	ORING, CARAMOAN, C.S.
25	ANGELA VDA DE CHANCOCO	CA	11.4449	TCT-RT-1282(957)	CAGAYCAY(SALOG), GOA, C.S.
26	ELISEO CLEDERA	CA	17.5873	OCT- NO. RP-1044(9653)/Lot 2	LOHO, LAGONOY, C.S.
27	HRS. OF HERMINIO DIONISIO	CA	21.3423	TCT-10277	BAGADION, LIBMANAN, C.S.
28	HRS. OF SALOME PAGSUYUIN		35.9479	TCT-RT-7400(7963)	CUYAPI, LIBMANAN, C.S.
29	HRS. OF POLICARPIO BENITEZ		21.6164	TCT-RT-9371(8239)	BAHAY, LIBMANAN, C.S.
30	HRS. OF LUIS GENERAL	CA	102.3910	OCT-6	PANICUASON, NAGA CITY
31	MARGARITA MERCADO MANALO	CA	14.8034	TCT-11630	SAN ISIDRO, NAGA CITY
32	MARGARITA MERCADO MANALO	CA	28.8690	TCT-11631	SAN ISIDRO, NAGA CITY
33	ANTONIO S. ANTONIO	CA	7.0000	TCT-49184	PACOL, NAGA CITY
34	EDGARDO T. CUADRO	CA	6.5000	TCT-49600	PACOL, NAGA CITY
35	LOURDES CUADRO - MEJIOTES		7.0000	TCT-49799	PACOL, NAGA CITY
36	HRS. OF JESUSA Y. ENVERGA		8.0000	TCT-14179	CAROLINA, NAGA CITY
37	HRS. OF ROSALIA H. DE FELIPE		69.1445		SAN ISIDRO, IRIGA CITY
38	PEDRO TARRONAS	CA	7.0246	OCT-RP-8315(26178)	SAN ISIDRO, PAMPLONA, C.S.
39	HRS. OF IRENEO ARENAS	CA	12.8057	OCT-HRP-8493(1152)	SALVACION, PAMPLONA, C.S.
40	MARCELINO PRIZA	CA	21.7397	OCT-HRP-7167(759)/ ARP 97-021-00143	(BINAHAN, BEFORE) NOW: SAMAY, RAGAY, C.S.
41	GREGORIO RIÑA	CA	15.3201	TCT-RT-1003 (22096)/LOT 1211, PLS-200	GRS, RAGAY, C.S.
42	HRS. OF SPS. LUIS AND SARAH VALERO	CA	7.7666	TCT-10234	CALAWAT, PAMPLONA, C.S.
43	HRS. OF ISIDRO SILANGIL	CA	2.8541	97-004-00108	BOCAL, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
44	HRS. OF ISIDRO SILANGIL	CA	14.5390	97-004-00316	BOCAL, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
45	FRANCISCO ALVAREZ/ISIDRO SILANGIL	CA	35.8705	97-007-00010	CALASCAGAS, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
46	FRANCISCO ALVAREZ/ISIDRO SILANGIL	CA	0.8744	97-004-001200	BOCAL, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
47	HRS. OF TRINIDAD VILLADOR	CA	44.6724	97-012-00310	GRIJALVO, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
48	HRS. OF TRINIDAD VILLADOR	CA	29.5825	97-012-00307	GRIJALVO, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
49	BRAULIO AGUILA		49.2531	TCT-RT-2865(8265)	MARAGNI, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
50	UNG CO		40.6968	OCT-942	LUPI, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
51	FELIX LEE		33.3713	OCT-RP-923(962)	TAGPOCOL, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
52	GERTRUDES OCAMPO		5.4188	TCT-RT-10988(1396)	DACULANG TUBIG, SAN FERNANDO
53	MAURA SIBULO		5.2171	OCT-RP-8278(16606)	ALIANZA, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
54	FRANCISCA NUÑEZ		7.2924	OCT-RP-5235	MARAGNI, SAN FERNANDO, C.S.
55	SPS. VITO & PILAR PORTUGUEZ		3.8540	TCT-RT-9486/Lot 1	SAN FERNANDO
56	SPS. VITO & PILAR PORTUGUEZ		9.6117	TCT-RT-9486/Lot 3	SAN FERNANDO
57	TERESA CENTENERA		15.7982	TCT-9358	BOCLOD, SAN JOSE, C.S.
58	WENCESLAO LIRAG & ROSITA CANTOS		12.7722	OCT-RO-77(992)	TAGAS, SAN JOSE, C.S.
59	WENCESLAO LIRAG & ROSITA CANTOS		33.4949	OCT-RO-75(991)	TAGAS, SAN JOSE, C.S.
60	WENCESLAO LIRAG & ROSITA CANTOS		7.8650	OCT-RO-78(1489)	TAGAS, SAN JOSE, C.S.
61	WENCESLAO LIRAG & ROSITA CANTOS		6.0669	OCT-RO-78(1483)	TAGAS, SAN JOSE, C.S.
62	PAULINO RAMOS		16.2004	OCT-RP-3992(29935	MAMPIRAO, SAN JOSE, C.S.
63	FELICIDAD AURO	CA	10.4467	757(22481)/TD-97-014-00212	CALAGBANGAN, SIPOCOT, C.S.
64	HRS. OF BENJAMIN LLAMANZARES	CA	5.0120	TCT-RT-8562(13532)	VIGAAN, SIPOCOT, C.S.
65	HRS. OF BENJAMIN LLAMANZARES	CA	9.3733	TCT-RT-8443(14236)	TULA-TULA, SIPOCOT, C.S.
66	MARCIAL KARE, SR. AND ANGELA GARCHITORENA	CA	61.0854	TCT-19943	SAN ANTONIO, TIGAON, C.S.
67	HRS. OF PETRA BELLEZA	CA	8.8306	LOT 2, PSU-166296; LOT 4931, CAD-339	LUPI, TINAMBAC, C.S.
	FINAL NOTIFICATION TO LANDOWNER				
60	BELEN CABALTERA	OLT	10.0000	TCT-RT-9039(19423)	SAGRADA, BAAO, C.S.
61	HRS. OF PEDRO ADUVISO	OLT	17.5061	OCT-RP-8992(11)	SAN ISIDRO, BATO, C.S.
62	CARLOS BELLEZA, ET. AL.	OLT	4.7000	PSU-169970 AMD	C.S.
63	CARLOS BELLEZA, ET. AL.	OLT	8.8712	SW-05-001687	BARCELONITA, CABUSAO, C.S.
64	CARLOS BELLEZA, ET. AL.	OLT	9.2080	PSU-165580 AMD	BARCELONITA, CABUSAO, C.S.
65	ISIDRO SILANGIL/PETRONILA MAGBOJOS	OLT	15.3922	DECREE N. 77046	PANDAN, CABUSAO, C.S.
66	SIXTO AGUILAR	OLT	10.7746	DECREE N. 77046	PANDAN, CABUSAO, C.S.
67	SIXTO AGUILAR	OLT	35.7033	DECREE N. 77046	PANDAN, CABUSAO, C.S.
68	VITO ROLDAN, ET. AL.	OLT	11.5001	SWO-05-001688	BIONG, CABUSAO, C.S.
69	HRS. OF MARIANO GARCHITORENA CHEREAU	OLT	31.7729	TCT-RT-9360(544)	NIÑO JESUS, IRIGA CITY
70	HRS. OF SPS. GERVACIO CUYUGAN & JACINTA BELZA	OLT	19.5213	OCT-RO-303(183)	CRISTO REY, IRIGA CITY
71	HRS. OF MANUEL GENOVA, SR.	OLT	10.4698	OCT-4619	ASLONG, LIBMANAN, C.S.
72	HRS. OF ANDRES YLLANA	OLT	51.3454	OCT-RO-821(813)	SAN RAMON, PAMPLONA, C.S.
73	HRS. OF JUAN DIZON, SR.	OLT	35.0000	OCT-341	TAMBANGAN, SAN JOSE, C.S.
	GRAND TOTAL		1,574.4911		

The composite team of DAR, Land Bank of the Philippines, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Barangay/Agrarian Reform Committee, Landowner and the prospective Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries will conduct a unified investigation on the property. This investigation is purposely made to determine the area to be acquired and the improvements thereon to serve as basis for just compensation. Republic Act No. 6657 provides to landowners the right to choose the area to be retained which shall be compact or contiguous.

Whenever applicable you have the right or privilege to:

1) Apply for an exemption clearance or for exclusion from CARP coverage;

2) Choose your retention area not exceeding five (5) hectares pursuant to Section 6 of R.A. No. 6657;

3) Nominate your children who may qualify as preferred beneficiaryries to the subject landholding.

Landowners are advised to coordinate with the DAR Municipal Offices where the property is situated within 15 days from publication of this notice for you to select your retained areas. After said period, the DAR shall proceed with the documentation process and shall be the one to choose your retained area.

(Sgd.) HUBERTO L. VILLARAZA, CESO V
PARO II
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR

(PDI–Sept. 2, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	Supply, delivery, installation and configuration of the following items per BSP's technical specifications and scope of work: Item 1 – Eighty-seven (87) units **PC DESKTOP** Item 2 – Twenty-eight (28) units **PC LAPTOP**
Approved Budget for the Contract	Item 1 – P6,786,000.00 Item 2 – P2,660,000.00
Completion date	Within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the approved Contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract of each item. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	4 to 21 SEPTEMBER 2006 (up to 2:00 P.M. only)
2. Pre-bid Conference	22 SEPTEMBER 2006, 11:00 A.M.
3. Opening of Bids	10 OCTOBER 2006, 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods
5. Post-qualification	) allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-
6. Notice of Award	) A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,400.00 for item 1 and P1,500.00 for item 2 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 2, 2006)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Baguio Economic Zone Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. Nos. 447-3331; 447-3683; 447-3328, 447-3329; 447-3333
Telefax: 447-3330

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), through the BAGUIO CITY ECONOMIC ZONE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BCEZ-BAC), invites potential bidders to apply for eligibility and, if found eligible, to bid for the following projects:

Project No.	Project Title	Approved Budget for the Contract (P)	Contract Duration (Days)
1	Welcome Arches for BCEZ	2,889,506.96	49
2	Installation of Feeders 6, 7, & 8	9,643,638.90	45

A Bidder should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of contracts, have completed a single similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. (For Project No. 2, at least a single completed project similar to the contract to be bid for NPC, TRANSCO, distribution utilities, IPPs, Electric Cooperatives and other industrial/Commercial Establishment). Interested bidders must submit their respective Letters of Intent (LOIs) and a copy of their PCAB Licenses and G-EPS Registration Certificates at the address given below to secure the Eligibility Documents. (The original PCAB License and G-EPS Registration Certificate must be presented for verification/authentication purposes). Applications for Eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. Complete sets of Bid Documents may be purchased by eligible bidders from the BCEZ-BAC secretariat upon payment of non-refundable fees of P2,000.00 for project no. 1 and P5,000.00 for project no. 2.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Only bids from eligible bidders submitted at the address below will be opened. The contract for each project will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification. Bids exceeding the ABC will automatically be rejected.

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

		PROJECT NO. 1	PROJECT NO. 2
1.	Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Sept. 5-11, 2006	Sept. 5-11, 2006
2.	Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Documents	Sept. 15, 2006 - 10:00 AM	Sept. 15, 2006 - 2:00 PM
3.	Opening of Eligibility Documents/ Eligibility Check	Sept. 15, 2006 - 10:00 AM	Sept. 15, 2006 - 2:00 PM
4.	Notice of Eligibility	Sept. 18, 2006	Sept. 18, 2006
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 19-29, 2006	Sept. 19-29, 2006
6.	Pre-bid Conference (with site inspection)	Oct. 3, 2006 - 10:00 AM	Oct. 3, 2006 - 2:00 PM
7.	Deadline of Submission of Bids	Oct. 16, 2006 - 10:00 AM	Oct. 16, 2006 - 2:00 PM
8.	Opening of Bid Documents	Oct. 16, 2006 - 10:30 AM	Oct. 16, 2006 - 2:00 PM

PEZA-BCEZ reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

The BCEZ-BAC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for the expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
2nd Floor, Administration Building, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Drive
Loakan, Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 447-3331, 4474155 / Telefax No. 447-3330
E-mail: bcez@nitro.com.ph

(Sgd.) ATTY. RENE U. BAYSA
BCEZ-BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 2, 2006)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
A New Company specializing in Media and Advertising

VIDEO EDITION HEAD
- Preferably 5 yrs. experience in related field
- Knowledgeable in professional video editing software
- Communication Arts, I.T. or Advertising graduate
- Male, not more than 30 yrs. old

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- Male/Female, 2-3 yrs. experience in related field
- Marketing, Mass Communication, Advertising graduate or related course

DISTRIBUTOR/MONITORING SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of any 4 yr. course
- With at least 1-2 yrs. supervisory experience
- Methodical, hardworking, meticulous with work
- Can work on weekends
- Knowledgeable in Video Equipments
- Male, not more than 25 yrs. old, computer literate

Submit your resumé with 2x2 photo, Transcript of Records, Employment Certificates & NBI Clearance

Unit 174 - 17/F Columbia Tower,
Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City
Email: recruitment_sii@yahoo.com.ph
Pls. look for Ms. Cora Fermin

BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE

VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT
within Bgy. Manibong, Lambunao and Brgy. Carvasana, Calinog, Iloilo

Total Area: **532,933 sqm.**
(more or less, covered by 15 titles)

Indicative Price: **P13,416,729.90**
(The indicative Selling Price covers only the 55.945% ownership/shares of the Bank on the property)

For inquiries, please call:
ASSET MANAGEMENT & DISPOSITION DIVISION
Tel. Nos.: 811-9797
Offer to purchase are subject to Bank's approval
Prices are subject to change without prior notice to the public
Property is on "as is, where is" basis

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www.ucpb.com

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby served upon the public that the intestate state of the late JOSE RIZAL M. FERNANDO of 2243 G. del Pilar St., Singalong, Manila consisting of Thirteen (13) parcels of land have been extrajudicially settled by his sole and only heir ENGRACIA DOLORES TOLENTINO represented by SUSAN T. CLASIO by way of a public instrument denominated as Affidavit of Self-Adjudication, duly executed and as Acknowledged before Notary Public Nycrisio P. Galvan and entered in the Notarial Register as Doc. No. 397, Page No. 81, Book No. 1, Series of 2006.

(PDI–Aug. 26, Sept. 2 & 9, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him;
He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.
Psalm 62:1

God has called our beloved Mama

SALUD REYNA FLORES

on August 31, 2006 at the age of 85.

Her remains lie in state at Sta. Rita de Cassia Parish Mortuary, Philam Homes, Quezon City.

Prayers for her eternal repose are requested by her bereaved family:

Husband : **Serafin (†)**
Children : **Grace** and **Gerry Favila** with sons **Eric** and **Alex**;
Gerry and **Lita** with children **Margo** and **Ramon**;
Celia & **Vic Taroc** with sons **VJ** and **Vincent**;
Caesar with sons **Martin**, **Nikkolo** and **Paolo**;
Elsie and **Lito Sison** with children **Mark**, **Joseph**, **BoomBoom** and **Carmela**

Siblings : **Sr. Josephine SPS (†)**, **Nieves Panlasigui (†)**, **Manolo (†)**, **Angel (†)**, **Pepito**, **Jesus** and **Badong**.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 7, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in Sta. Rita de Cassia Parish Church.

Please omit flowers. Donations to the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) will be appreciated.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." *Psalm 23:4*

BOHOL-I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(BOHECO-I)

September 02, 2006

INVITATION TO BID

Bohol-I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO-I), in compliance with the Energy Regulatory Commission's (ERC) "Guidelines for Recovery of Costs for the Generation Component of Distribution Utilities' Rates," which took effect on May 9, 2004, invites potential Bidders – Existing or New Generation Companies – to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of BOHECO-I's partial electricity rrequirements in the nominal amount of approximately 2,500 kilowatts. BOHECO-I shall sign a Bilateral Contract with the winning Bidder.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bidding Documents from:

Engr. Teofilo T. Sagarino
Chairman – Bids & Awards Committee
Bohol-I Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Maca-as, Tubigon, 6329 Bohol

Telephone No. : (+63-38) 508-0084; 508-0085; 2372-205
Facsimile : (+63-38) 508-8095
E-mail Address : ttsagarino@yahoo.com

The Bidding requirements and schedule of activities are as follows:

Contract Number: BOHECO I – EPPA-01 (2,500 KW)	
Release of Invitation to Bid	09-02-2006
Intent to Respond Forms Due	09-16-2006
Pre-Bid Conference	09-30-2006
Deadline for Submission of Bids	10-15-2006
Award (Subject to successful negotiation and ERC approval)	10-30-2006

A Non-Refundable Amount of PhP 10,000.00 will be charged to all Eligible Bidders for the Cost of Bidding Documents.

BOHECO-I reserves the right to reject any application and bids, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to Award of Contract without thereby incurring any liability to affected Bidders or any obligation to inform the affected Bidder(s) of the grounds for the BOHECO-I's action.

Bids & Awards Committee
Bohol-I Electric Cooperative, Inc.

(PDI – September 2, 2006)

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Nativity of Our Lady Parish Fiesta

ON SEPT. 8, THE NATIVITY OF OUR Lady Parish (NOLP) in Marikina will celebrate its town fiesta to commemorate the Feast of the birth of the Virgin Mary. The celebration will be marked by a week-long line-up of activities to include Novena masses at 6 p.m. from Aug. 30 to Sept. 7. On Sept. 8, there will be masses at 6 a.m. and 7:30 a.m., followed by "Kasalang Bayan" at 9 a.m. and "Binyagang Bayan" at 11 a.m. A special High Mass will be concelebrated with Bishop Gabriel Reyes of the Diocese of Antipolo, will be at 6 p.m.

The feast commemorating the miraculous birth of Mama Mary, as explained in the book on "Marian Feasts" by Fr. Manuel P. Duetao, "reflects early Christians' conviction that the holiness and the very life of the Virgin Mary are completely God's gift to His people. Her birth announced joy and the near approach of salvation to the lost world. It was a mystery of holiness, distinguished by unique privileges. She was not deprived of sanctifying grace nor prone to sin.

On the other hand, she was pure, holy, beautiful and glorious, adorned with precious graces needed to be a worthy mother of God Incarnate."

The NOLP fiesta will be culminated by a free concert entitled, "Isang Gabing Alay kay Maria", from 8:30 p.m. up to 10:30 p.m. As an offering of praise and thanksgiving, the concert will showcase liturgical hymns dedicated to the Blessed Mother to be performed by representatives from various chorale groups of the NOLP. The concert shall be in the Church proper of the NOLP along Major Dizon St., Industrial Valley Complex, Marikina City.

More CLASSIFIED ADS on pages...

Supreme Court A4
Home Guaranty Corporation A20

OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICE

EMILIANO R. MEDINA

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 29, 2006 at the age of 71.

His body lies in state No. 2 Gallego St., Phase 9F, Vista Verde Executive Village, Cainta, Rizal.

Interment will be tomorrow, September 3, 2006, 3:00 p.m. at Loyola, Marikina.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

ROGELIO V. RAMOS

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 30, 2006 at the age of 60.

His loving wife **Marilie**; children **Irene, Marie Rose, Raphael** and **Iana Ysabelle**; grandchild **Antonio Mikail**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be held at Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City on September 5, 2006, Tuesday, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Chapel B-7, La Funeraria Paz, Inc.

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In Loving Memory
on the Eight Death Anniversary of

ANTONIO ZARAGOZA LIM

(March 11, 1937 – September 3, 1998)

Tony's widow, **Mariquita Bautista-Lim**; children **Tom, Louie, Missy** and **Jason Brodowski**, and **Bob**; granddaughters **Skye** and **Riley**; sister **Eva Lim Pasagui** and her family; **Mariquita's** siblings **Mely, Dudie** and **Warren Willis, Laly, Ted,** and **Nina** and **Manolo Quiray**, and their families request relatives, friends and the kind reader to attend Mass or say a prayer for the eternal repose of Tony's soul.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2006.

Resurrection Church, Parañaque City	8:00 a.m.
St. Anthony's Cathedral, Masbate City	8:45 a.m.
St. Timothy's Church, Chantilly, Virginia	9:00 a.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church, Makati City	10:00 a.m.
San Isidro Parish Church, Pasay City	10:00 a.m.
Transfiguration of Our Lord Church, Quezon City	5:30 p.m.
San Beda–Alabang Chapel, Muntinlupa	6:30 p.m.

Message of Thanks

THE ASSOCIATED BROADCASTING COMPANY

And the families of

HAZEL RECHETA-CALIMAG, ISMAEL C. CABUGAYAN AND ARNEL C. GUIAO

who joined our Lord on August 13, 2006.

Wish to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent cards and flowers, attended the religious services, and in countless ways condoled and gave us solace and strength in our bereavement.

THANK YOU

JOSEFINA OBIAS DEMETRIOU

TABACO CITY, ALBAY

Has peacefully joined her Creator and beloved son, ***Antonio*** *on August 31, 2006 at the age of 83.*

Her bereaved husband, **Solon Sr.**,
children: **Antonio** (†) & **Marie, Harriet, Jennifer, Solon Jr.** and **Vangie**;
grandchildren: **Christine** & **Niño, Michelle** & **Michael, Alexander Philip, Joann, John Paul** & **Sheila**;
great grandchildren: **John Robert Solon, Martina Angela**, and **Carlos Antonio**,
request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will be at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway St., Quezon City until today, September 2, 2006 at 7:00 a.m. and thereafter will be flown to Tabaco City, Albay.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 9, 2006 at the Demetriou Mausoleum, Tabaco Catholic Cemetery after the 3:00 p.m. Concelebrated Mass at St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Tabaco City, Albay.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

BUSINESS

Teves urges banks to lend more to SMEs

A CHILD plays with a calculator next to a money changer in the port city of Zamboanga, southern Philippines. The BSP said it expected the peso, which hit a four-year high on Thursday, to sustain its upward momentum with strong remittances from overseas Filipino workers. REUTERS

Improving fiscal condition to trim treasury auctions

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARito Teves has urged the banking sector to lend more to private businesses, especially as the government's improving fiscal condition would lessen its need to borrow from the banks.

Since banks need to invest the deposits they generate, the declining borrowing requirement of the government should encourage banks to take more risks by lending to private entities.

"This is the challenge for banks today, to look for more ways to mobilize their resources," Teves said in a brief talk with reporters.

Teves said there was a need for small and medium enterprises to have better access to credit to support growth of their industry. Banks should play a role in bridging the gap as a way to boost economic activity in the country, he added.

But Teves acknowledged the fact that increasing lending was not an easy task given all the regulations imposed on banks regarding risk-taking. While it was ideal for banks to be proactive in lending, it should be balanced with the need to manage risk to avoid bank failures, he said.

The government's budget deficit for this year is programmed to be reduced to P125 billion from last year's P146.8 billion. There are expectations, however, that the deficit will be lower given the over-performance on the fiscal front in the past months.

The budget deficit for the first seven months of the year hit P48.5 billion, equivalent to only 39 percent of the P125 billion full-year deficit limit set by fiscal authorities for 2006.

For next year, the budget deficit is expected to be reduced further to only P63 billion. The budget position is expected to be balanced by 2008.

Fiscal authorities said the improving fiscal position would mean the government would have to substantially trim down its borrowing requirements, therefore reducing the volume of treasury bills and bonds to be auctioned.

As a result, banks, which park their available funds largely in government securities, will have limited investment opportunities. Teves said lending more to SMEs would be a good alternative investment and a way to help the economy grow further.

Teves' comment came after Secretary Romulo Neri, who is also director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, criticized the banking sector for what he described as anemic lending. He said restraint in lending among banks wasted opportunity for growth given the huge amount of liquidity in the system.

Responding to Neri's criticism, Leonilo Coronel of the Bankers' Association of the Philippines (BAP) said the need to increase lending should be balanced with the need to protect the industry from risky investments to avoid the crisis that happened in the late 1990s.

He said that instead of criticizing banks from weak lending, authorities should focus on the reasons why banks were cautious in giving credit to businesses. He said the country's still uncompetitive environment made businesses in the country less healthy, therefore making lending relatively a risky activity.

Coronel said government agencies like the Neda should be exerting more effort in creating a more competitive business environment.

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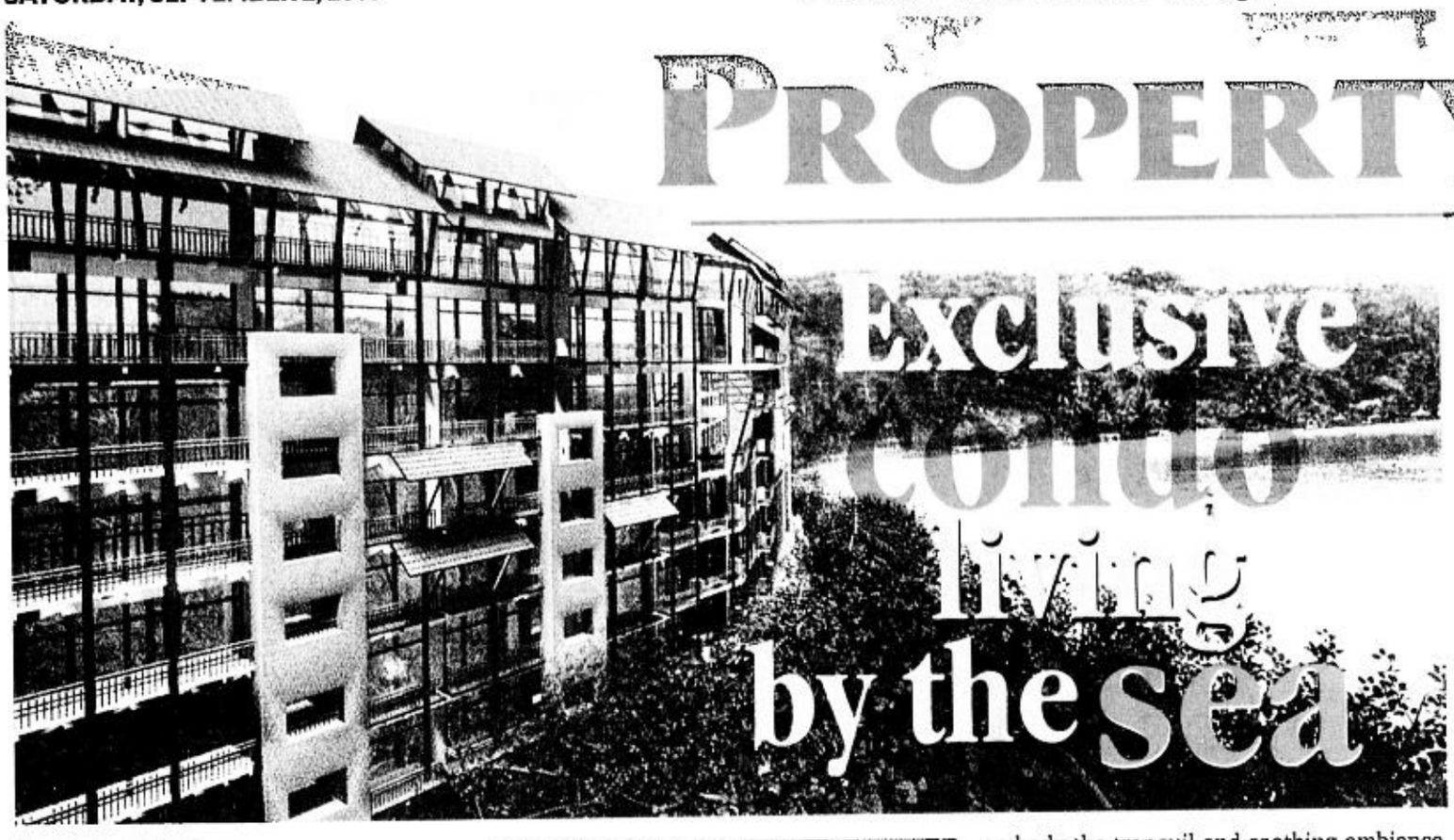


Exclusive condo living by the sea

By Charles E. Buban

THESE DAYS THERE IS ONLY one place you need to look for Landco Pacific Corp.'s VP for residential resorts Jose Antonio Xerez-Burgos and corporate communications manager Janice Nadew, that is on the breezy seaside escarpment where their Amara En Terrazas will soon rise.

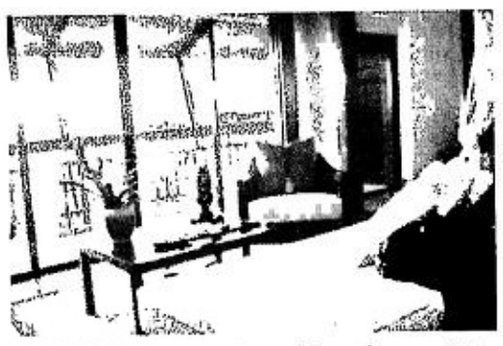
The view of the South China Sea is spectacular, the air smells of the ocean, and the location is blissfully private, well away from the crowds and traffic of the area.

"It's also a pretty cool area that's out of the way, but you can take the Tagaytay-Nasugbu highway and be in Tagaytay City or the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay national highway and the South Luzon Expressway and get to Metro Manila," Xeres-Burgos said.

Selling point

The convenient commute was an important selling point for Xeres-Burgos who said while Amara En Terrazas will be more than just a weekend home, most of their future homeowners may also need to go to Metro Manila for work or attend some important meetings.

"Much more, life by the sea is different. One can wake up to watch a dolphin or two surfing the waves and there are unique palette of sunsets over the water every day. Your future window and balcony picture changes before your eyes," Nadew said.



AMARA En Terrazas is envisioned to capture the lifestyle, the feel and the indulgence of every individual's dream vacation getaway.

Indeed, the lifestyle to be offered at Amara En Terrazas is unique. Surrounded by pockets of forest reserve and outlined by a gentle rolling terrain toward a majestic mountain ridge, this latest Landco development is at present the only exclusive seaside development in the Philippines.

Only 95 units

"There will only be a total of 95 units arranged in a single corridor so that each unit will have a unique and unobstructed views of the pristine waters of the South China Sea, the Terrazas (de Punta Fuego) Cove and nearby communities," Xerex-Burgos added.

The two explained that the project's name Amara, is the synthesis of the Spanish word Amor (love) and Mar (sea), as the place will embody the tranquil and soothing ambiance of a resort and access to the expansive world-class recreational amenities and facilities of Club Punta Fuego.

Hence, the central design theme of Amara En Terrazas is a fusion of Spanish Mediterranean and Tropical Asian architecture, characterized by the seamless integration of man-made and natural environment.

1.6-hectare rolling terrain

"The development is located on a 1.6 hectares of rolling terrain that rises up to 75 meters above sea level. There will be two structures: the northwest facing Casa del Mar, with a maximum of seven stories and southwest facing the three-story Casa de Amor. The development will be organized into clusters bordered by lush tropical landscaping and interconnected by link bridges," Nadew described.

The price of each unit (two-bedroom, three-bedroom loft and penthouse units) ranges from P8.5 million to P13 million, and will be lavished with features not found in most condominiums. Garden units (139 sq m/two bedrooms), for instance, will be furnished with an outdoor jacuzzi and a roomy veranda while Loft units (173 sq m/three bedrooms) will be designed with a two-story-high ceiling for the living and dining area and an extended balcony.

Model units can be viewed at the Nasugbu site.

Nadew added that Amara En Terrazas will be sold exclusively to Club Punta Fuego members so that share ownership become a necessary qualification for buyers of any unit.

Are you 'in' at Shang Grand Tower?

LET'S FACE IT—WHERE YOU live matters. Your address still counts when it comes to scoring points at the social register. The name of your street, your choice of gated village, the level of your condo unit's floor have a way of telling others what your position is in the pecking order of the totem pole.

Some communities whisper with the echoes of old money; others have faded away with time. Nonetheless, the secret to staying in the loop is discovering what today's "in" address is and move in there.

These days, the city is abuzz with the luxurious address that is the corner of De la Rosa, Perea and Nieva Streets in Legaspi Village, Makati. The Shang Grand Tower sits majestically in the middle of it all, a stone's throw away from practically everything—Makati's bastions of business and finance, as well as malls and leisure centers.

2 lobbies

That is not, however, the only reason Metro Manila denizens and other citizens of the world are clamoring to own a unit at the Shang Grand Tower. After all, where can you find two classically designed lobbies—with one servicing the low floors and the other soaring to the higher zones of this 46-story wonder? This distinction between levels serves to provide the utmost in privacy for residents, as well gentle diplomacy in terms of safety and security.

The 254 units are a combination of one-, two- and three-bedroom residences, as well as two-story penthouses. All units give a bright and airy feel as the floor-to-ceiling windows freely let the sunshine in. There is creative use of wood and stone in all rooms, and even the bathroom tiles are imported ceramics.

Amenities floor

For leisure and well-being, the Shang Grand Tower's amenities floor is a tough act to follow. The gym is equipped with state of the art exercise equipment to keep residents in true fighting form. The children's play area features huge running and jumping and laughing and bonding indoor and outdoor spaces.

Cozy and comfortable function rooms are perfect for any social gathering or special event. Should a sizable group require more space, the multipurpose rooms open up and can even extend to the patio area adjacent to the 25-meter lap pool. There is also a swimming pool for kids, plus a canopied jacuzzi.

To top it all, TSGT is managed by an affable and efficient property management team whose members have imbibed the uniquely award-winning Shangri-La way. Condominium living with the hotel touch is the in-thing nowadays. And there's more—TSGT residents can avail of the hotel-linked services with the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, which include outside catering, in-hotel restaurant reservations, limousine service and laundry and valet.

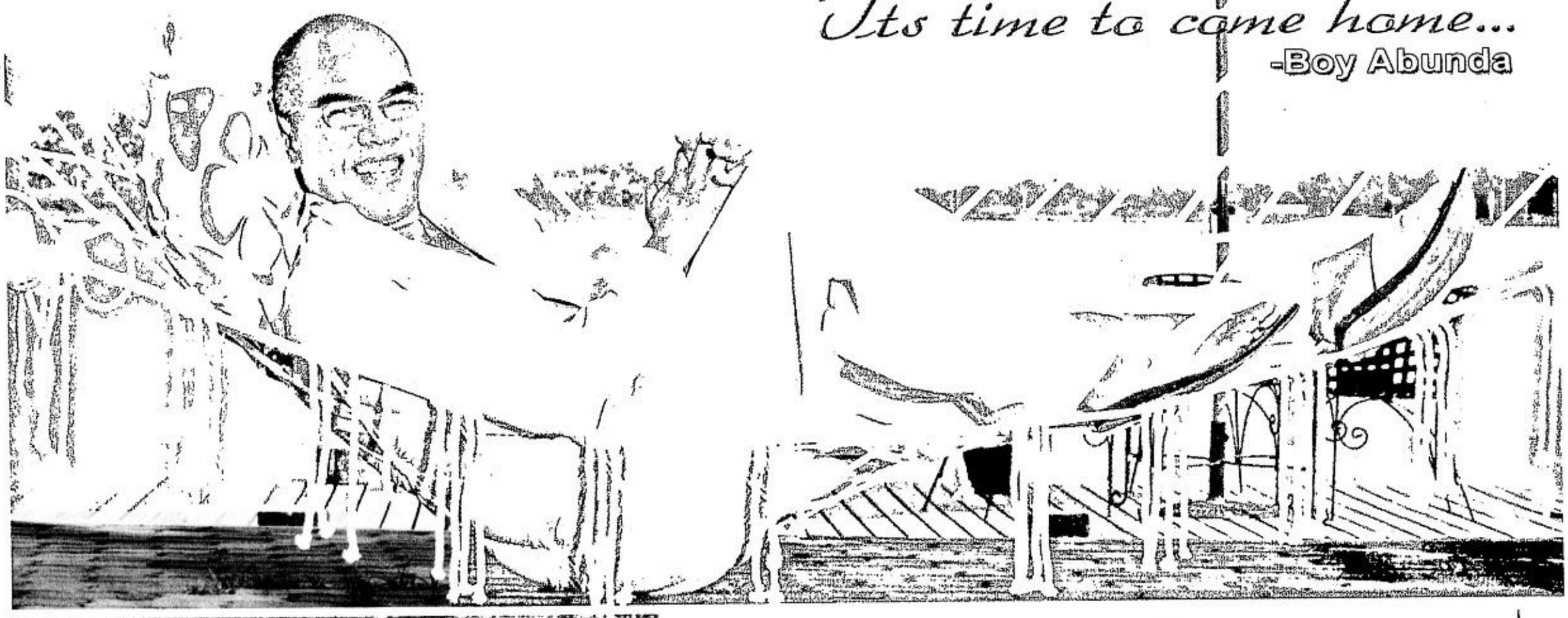
And now, for that all important question: Are you "in" or "out"? Is your address The Shang Grand Tower? If it is, then you're truly one among the most select and discriminating crowd. If not, you still have a chance to live here because there are but a few units left.

The Lakeshore

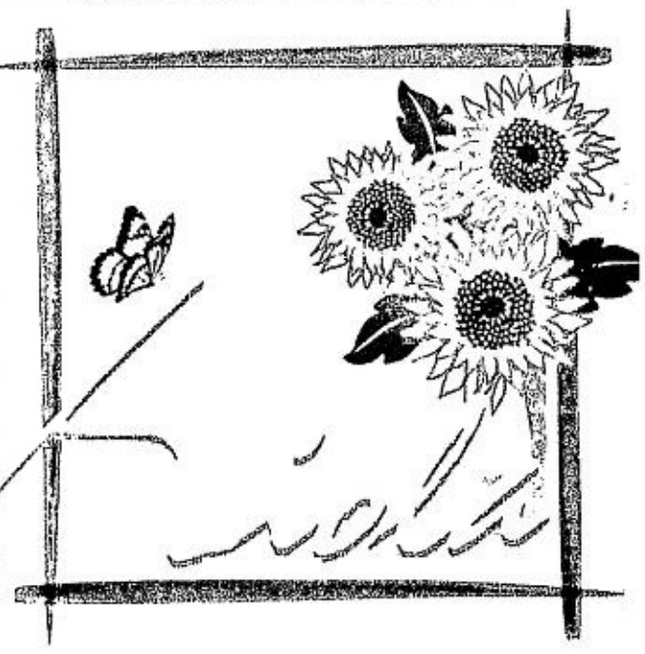
Km. 71 North Luzon Expressway, Mexico, Pampanga

It's time to come home...

-Boy Abunda



Aiola Village is the latest addition to The Lakeshore's growing family of villages. It will be one of the Lakeshore Estate's premier villages: a highly exclusive enclave featuring upscale amenities like underground water cisterns and electrical wiring, larger than usual cuts of land and an environment that will put a premium on greater freedom, natural beauty and security for residents. Aiola Village will be a breezily expansive community because of the enforced absence of fences around homes without necessarily sacrificing security. An automated gate system will usher in residents while guards will patrol the walled-in village round the clock. Home facades will be refreshingly unhindered by unsightely walls. Lushly landscaped front lawns and picturesque gardens as well as manicured opened green spaces will pamper residents throughout the sprawl of the village. An exclusive swimming pool, playground, gazebo and meandering jogging trail will be some of the perks to be relished by the home owners.



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Aiola Grand Launching
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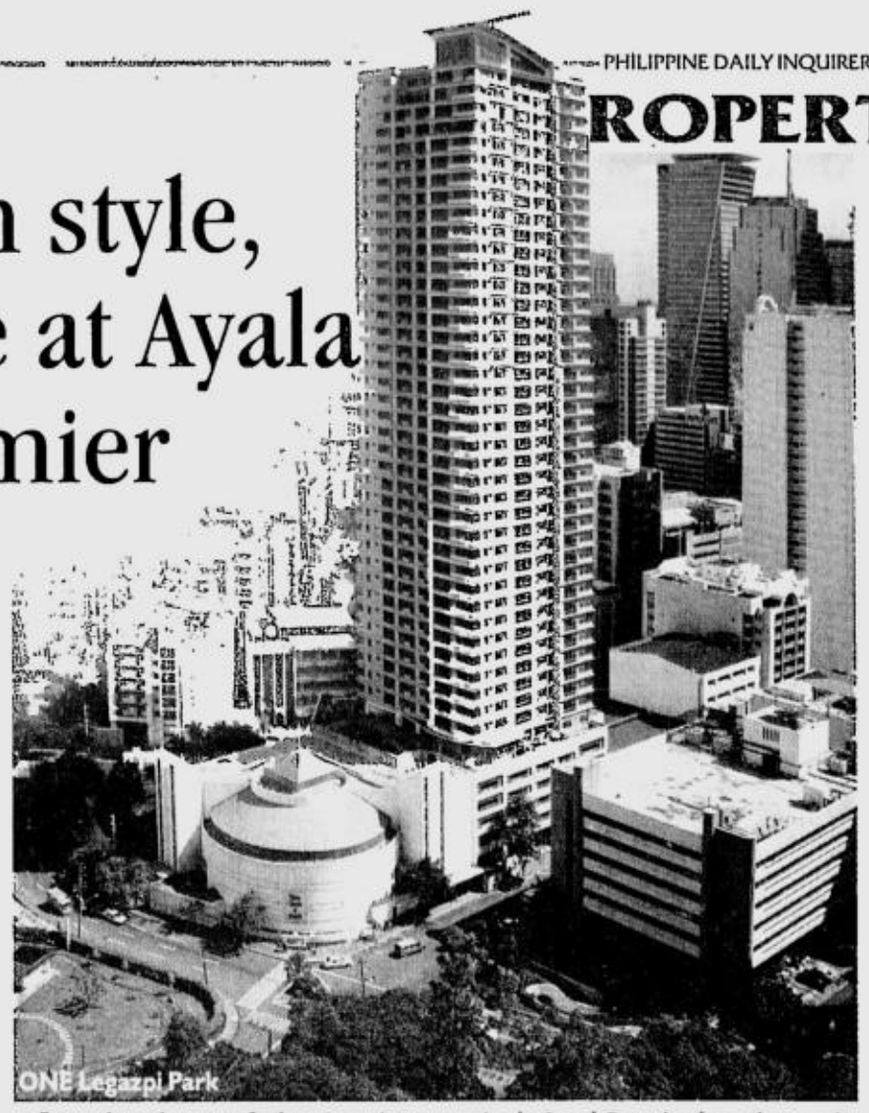
More than style, substance at Ayala Land Premier


ONE Legazpi Park

BUYING A HOME IS ONE OF THE biggest decisions a person makes in his lifetime, and today's property owners know there's more to the process than choosing property in a private location or a condo with an excellent design. Because buying property entails a significant financial investment, customers find comfort in the knowledge that their new investment will maintain, if not appreciate its value over time. This need serves as the driving force of Ayala Land Premier, the top end product brand of the Philippines' largest and most experienced full-line real estate company Ayala Land.

Ayala Land Premier carries on the heritage of its parent company as the industry leader, known for its master-planned, fully-integrated communities. The Ayala Land name carries with it decades of trustworthiness and reliability; it offers not only real estate developments that offer top value for one's investments, but also ensures that its commitments are delivered to clients

New name

As the new name for the top-end developments that provide security, ultimate comfort, and privacy, Ayala Land Premier embodies Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the residents' quality of life with its portfolio of prime locations and trophy addresses—from high-end, large-scale communities to high-rise residential towers built to fit the affluent lifestyle.

Urbanites in search of luxury and exclusivity within the metropolis can take their pick from Ayala Land Premier's residential buildings. The Residences at Greenbelt offers a universe of high living and provides utmost connectivity to a variety of work and leisure options by being at the center of it all. One Serendra, on the other hand, promises the beauty and luxury of spacious surburban living in the midst of the bustling city. Both premium residential buildings feature fully equipped units in various designs to suit different tastes, and provides only top-class amenities.

Suburban living

Mixing suburban living with urban convenience is also one of what Ayala Land Premier does best, as evident in two projects. The Legacy at Montgomery Place in Quezon City is a quiet, exclusive enclave featuring homes that reflect the charm of the American South. In the Ayala Alabang Complex, Ayala Land Premier has developed the Ayala Southvale Village Sonera, a unique residential community characterized by wide open spaces and offering unparalleled peace, quiet and security.

Both developments are master-planned communities offering the finest in suburban living as well as access to shopping and dining districts, bustling business centers and state-of-the-art medical facilities.

Unique residential environs

Ayala Land Premier has also built grand communities with the beauty of nature as a glowing backdrop. One example is Ayala Westgrove Heights, a fully integrated and masterplanned community in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Touted as "The Next Big Thing" after Ayala Alabang, Ayala Westgrove Heights is a unique residential environment set in a gorgeous and unique suburban landscape with rolling hills and mango groves.

Farther south is Ayala Greenfield Estates, an exclusive, residential community that offers homes set in the midst of gorgeous natural views. It also integrates a championship golf course which will surely entice enthusiasts. Up north is Anvaya Cove, Ayala Land Premier's first leisure community where residents can enjoy nature's beauty, engaging in various family bonding activities that integrate the gorgeous views and breathtaking natural wonders of this idyllic haven.

AYALA Westgrove Heights

Ayala Land Premier has also set its sights in the south of the Philippines. It is currently developing Amara, residential development in Lilo-an, Cebu nestled by the sea and undulating hills accentuated by the eternal warmth of a century-old lighthouse. Another development in the Queen City is Ayala Heights Cebu. Nestled in a plateau, profoundly scenic with rugged natural character and commanding views of the mountain and the city, its master-plan takes off from such Ayala Land developments as Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village.

Another landmark development is Ayala North Point in Metro Bacolod, the first subdivision in Western Visayas in the tradition of Ayala Land's fully integrated communities the likes of Makati, Muntinlupa and Cebu. Ayala Northpoint pulsates with the legacy of a century of graceful living amid the riches of the land married in a village concept with full scale amenities, a retail center, school and civic center.

Best development groups

To provide this expansive range of homes, Ayala Land Premier works with only the best development groups—from the architectural team to the construction and engineering groups who share Ayala Land Premier's vision. The company also depends on the Ayala Property Management Corp. to ensure that each project is carefully maintained according to the highest standards, ensuring value for one's investment. And because safety and security is of foremost concern, all Ayala Land Premier developments are guarded by the Ayala Security Force.

With this kind of dedication and commitment, it is no wonder that an Ayala Land Premier home is much sought after.

Ayala Land Premier truly lives up to its promise of providing discerning homeowners not only with luxurious, exclusive abodes that reflect their lifestyle, but also worthy investments that will only grow in value in the years to come. As many residents can attest, choosing an Ayala Land Premier development is certainly the best decision one can make.

Breathing life into Michelangelo

MAVERICK REAL PROPERTY DEVELOPER Brittany Corp. has always recognized the value of an excellent interior design as a partner in crafting a dream home. A firm believer that love is in the details, all the properties the firm has developed are testaments to the sweet life in every aspect, inside and outside the house.

Upon the completion of the Masters Collection's Michelangelo, only a single name was considered to handle the interiors: Almario.

"Michelangelo is not just a showcase home. It is easy to make that conclusion when you're dealing with a property of that size and scale but it is not merely a display house. It is a real home and what we wanted to show through its interiors is that a large house need not be a cold one. Size has nothing to do with it. You can have a small house yet feel so unwelcome. Michelangelo is about being at ease with your success. The scale may be intimidating from the outside but once you enter, you step into a warm and comfortable home that has, well, maybe a little more room than usual," Brittany president Jing Serrano said.

Michelangelo is the first of the Masters Collection series under the Portofino development which also includes Portofino Heights, Portofino South, Courtyards of Portofino I and II, and WideLots of Portofino. The Italian-inspired architecture features sun-drenched colors, cobblestones, charming arches and a strong sense of openness that only comes with a thorough understanding of light and space.

For the interiors, the Almarios turned their gaze to Italy as well—taking the various elements of the European nation's lifestyle and incorporating them with the Filipino sensibilities to create a home that is both beautiful and convenient to its homeowner.

Impressive layout

"We were very impressed with the layout—it has seven bedrooms. We love the courtyard where everyone can meet and have outdoor activities. We love the cascading waterfalls also. So we wanted the interiors to be really opulent because we wanted to mimic a mini Italian villa or a Venetian palace," designer Cynthia Almario explained.

Influences of *la dolce vita* can be found in every room. The chandelier in the living room was custom-made for Michelangelo. In the dining room is a hand-painted wall based on a pattern from Venice that they reinterpreted. The final result was a labor of love by six artists. The whole house, in fact was hand-painted, making use of the rag finish—a very tedious technique but when done correctly can produce very stunning results. Many furnishings have silver gold-leaf finish.

But despite the grandeur that characterized the Michelangelo's architecture, along with the luxurious furnishings, the completed home is far from being indifferent and detached. Rather than feeling like a museum where one is afraid to roam around freely, the result is very inviting to company.

A feeling of warmth

"What's amazing here is that you can get lost. If you want to hide, it would be difficult to find you. But you don't get intimidated. There's a feeling of warmth, and your voice won't echo. Even if you're on the second floor, there is an interaction. There is an overlook—from the second floor you can lean on the railing and see what's happening in the living room," Almario said.

THE LIVING room shows opulence at every angle.

She stressed that each room has its own story to tell. This, she explained, is a trademark of the Brittany property. They always request for a focal point in each room to give it a personality. In this case, its the Francophile touch for the little girl's room, the textures and patterns in the dining room, and the four-poster muted-gold bed in the master's suite.

She admits, though, that there is a stronger fondness for the pink, little girl's room. It reminds her of Paris but with a very refreshing touch such as the franco-chinois toile pattern on the bed and the wicker trims.

"It's very aspirational. You want to own it. It's a dream coming true, unfolding before your eyes," she added.

Manageable clusters

But at the heart of all these details is the basic layout which, Almario explained, was what made their job easy. The house was not a single huge hall, she explained. It was broken up into several, more manageable clusters which made it very cozy and less daunting to approach and design.

The Masters Collection is integrated within the entire Portofino development. The floor areas of the six model homes range from 350 to 650 square meters. Lot sizes reach to as much as 1,000 sq m.

Premium utilities

The entire Portofino development boasts of premium utilities for its residents. To ensure an unobstructed view of the landscape, cables for power and communication were buried underground. Perimeter fences and buffer trees line the boundary lots to ensure security apart from the 24-hour system that safeguards the entire community. Deep wells and water reservoirs ensure a round the clock water service. Garbage is collected every other day.

Most of all, a professional property management team secures the community and makes sure that the high standards are maintained long after the last lot has been purchased.

A family oasis with 65% open area

DEVELOPED BY ROBINSONS Land Corp., the country's property developer of choice, Woodsville Viverde Mansions is the newest nature- and family-inspired residential community to rise in the suburbs of Makati.

A gated-community beside Merville and situated between Bicutan and Nichols Interchange, this modern 9-12 story condo development is only 10 minutes drive from the bustling Ayala Avenue—readily accessible by both private and public transportation.

Unique concept

Masterplanned for 14 buildings, this engaging 3-hectare residential community is safe, tranquil and generous in open areas and amenities. With a staggering 65 percent open area, this unique concept allows the whole Woodsville Viverde Mansions community to enjoy, breathe and relax in the environment of verdant greenery and lots of trees.

Said RLC High-Rise Buildings general manager Danilo E. Ignacio: "We are proud that we have developed a prime property that is truly within reach, so close to Makati but not with the stiff price tag of Makati properties. A community inspired by nature that allots wide open spaces, lots of greenery and trees for families to enjoy. This project is designed for start-up families to own their first condo."

Fast construction dev't

RLC said the first condo building will be ready for turnover by December 2007. This fast construction development is ideal for start-up families who prefers to move in immediately—with this, families need not wait with the usual industry practice of 4-5 years construction period. Each floor will have 8-12 units, giving it a low residential density ratio.

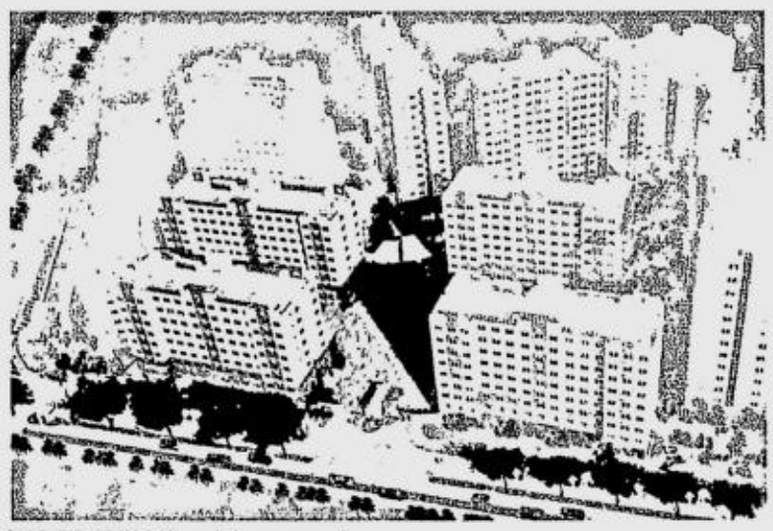
An inviting place with great amenities designed with children in mind. Families here can enjoy an array of big pluses: Big swimming pool for kids to frolic and swim, indoor and outdoor playgrounds where kids could play tag, run and fly the freesbie.

Woodsville Viverde Mansions will have its own village mall that offers valued residents the unique convenience of living beside a mall. Nearby are several malls that allow families to enjoy more shopping, malling, watch great movies, dining and more. Close in proximity are prominent schools like Woodrose, San Beda Alabang, Don Bosco Makati and Colegio de San Agustin.

Affordable

Ignacio added, "An unbeatable deal, our affordable models coupled with RLC's track record in nature-inspired community development will definitely entice working professionals and executives to own their first family condo." Condominium units are affordably available with studio units at P1 million, 2-BR units at P2 million and 3-BR units at P2.5 million—all offering attractive payment schemes that allow easy monthly payments.

Residents can experience convenient living right at the comforts of their condo. A continuing value innovation, RLC made sure that all 2-BR and 3-BR units have a maid's room to facilitate ease of living. The condo also has a spacious roof deck for laundry drying plus conveniences that are available at Woodsville Viverde Mansions.


WOODSVILLE aerial perspective

Enjoy a family oasis where living with nature brings fulfillment to one's family's safety, health and well-being. For inquiries, please call Robinsons Land Corp. High-Rise Buildings Division at 636-0888 or 0922-8380888.

Big developers, NGOs pour in support for homes for the poor

LEADING PROPERTY DEVELOPERS AND non-government organizations have pledged more than P28 million for the innovative public housing program envisioned by Taguig Mayor Freddie R. Tinga to improve the living conditions of the city's poor residents.

The Taguig Family Townhomes is but proof that the herculean task of uplifting the lives of the poor by providing them decent homes can be realized with an honest-to-goodness program that the people can trust, Tinga said.

Donors

He said Community Innovations Inc., a subsidiary of Ayala Land Inc., will be donating P17 million to subsidize some of the housing units through the Lightomorrow Foundation, while Megaworld Corp. has pledged P10 million.

"We decided to contribute to the Taguig Family Townhomes program because our organization is strongly committed to making a significant impact in communities we are part of, not only from a business standpoint but also from a social development perspective by supporting and working closely with the local government in community-building projects," Bernard Vincent Dy, Community Innovations president, said.

Megaworld senior vice president for Operations Tony Tan, for his part, said Megaworld is proud to be part of the project.

"We at Megaworld Corp. believe in building decent communities that give the underprivileged people of Taguig renewed hope and dignity. We are stakeholders in the City of Taguig and the contribution we have made to the Family Townhomes program of Mayor Tinga is an investment in the future of our city," he said.

Fund-raising efforts

Even De La Salle University's Batch '82, next year's silver jubilarians, has pledged to donate a sizeable amount from the proceeds of an 18-hole golf tournament at the Canlubang Golf & Country Club on Feb. 16, 2007 as part of their celebrations dubbed as "Greenerations."

"We have chosen Family Townhomes to be a beneficiary of our fund-raising efforts because this project is real, something that people can hold on to," DLSU's Batch '82 chair Henry Atayde stressed.

The Kilusang Diwa ng Taguig (KDT), an NGO, will likewise donate P1 million while the Pacific Plaza Towers has pledged P450,000 to the Lightomorrow Foundation.

Tinga said donors who give a P50,000 or $1,000 contribution will personally get to know their beneficiaries.

Decent housing units

Taguig, one of the country's fastest urban growing centers where the most expensive residential developments are rising, plans to build 30,000 decent housing units in 10 years that could bridge the gap between the rich and the city's poorest homeless residents.

Under the Family Townhomes program, the city government will put up affordable low-rise buildings in various locations, with each building composed of eight to 12 residential units measuring 25 square meters each. Some of the units will be subsidized through fund-raising efforts by the local government and NGOs.

The beneficiaries will pay through an easy financing program with a monthly amortization that will range between P600 and P1,500 only for a maximum period of 30 years.

Those interested to participate in the project by way of contribution, financial or otherwise, are encouraged to coordinate with Tinga's office at 628-3628 or 628-3627 or the Local Housing Office under Eddie Mariano.

Energy-efficient appliances

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

PLANNING TO BUY THE LATEST MODEL of air conditioner with a tight budget? After comparing prices, you decide to buy the one with the lowest sales price and you congratulate yourself for making a good decision, right? Wrong.

By buying the cheapest model, you may actually be spending more than if you had bought the more expensive model. Why? When buying an appliance, there are two things you must consider:

- Unit or appliance cost
- Maintenance and operation costs

This means you have to consider how much you spend during its useful life. The appliance with the least cost is not always the one that costs the least to operate.

The energy consumption of an appliance affects your operating costs when you consider Brand A that consumes X amount of kilowatt hours per year compared with Brand B that consumes less than X amount of kilowatt hours per year. This means that Brand B costs less to operate per year. The amount that Brand B saves may not seem much but note that this savings is for every year that the appliance operates in contrast with the purchase price that you pay only once. This is why you may actually be saving money by buying the more expensive but energy efficient model.

Using Energy Guide labels

Smart buying starts with intelligent decision making by using the Energy Guide labels found attached to the appliance. The labels help compare the efficiency or annual energy use of competing brands and similar models. Look for the yellow and black labels on washing machines, refrigerators, freezers, room air conditioners, lamps and ballasts.

Many countries now have their own energy labeling system. In this country, the Philippine Energy Label displays the appliance's energy efficiency rating (EER or as measured under the test standard). Buyers can use this information to compare products if they wish. The label also shows the minimum efficiency requirement for that size and type of air conditioner. Labels also show a range of other data such as rated voltage, frequency and capacity or volume.

The labeling system started in July 1992 when the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) signed an agreement with the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (Aham), a voluntary labeling system for household air conditioners. In October 1993 it became mandatory. By 1994 it expanded to cover all sizes of window- and wall-type air conditioners. In 2000 labels for refrigerators and freezers were introduced and by 2001 split-type air conditioners and compact fluorescent lamps were included.

The Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) and the Department of Energy (DOE) jointly administer the energy standards and labeling program. Both monitor compliance by way of regular inspection of dealer stores and drawing of test samples from the manufacturer's warehouse. It is required that all models are tested twice a year. Manufacturers found to be not in compliance with the labeling system are penalized by BPS. Models that do not pass the inspection are not allowed to be distributed in the market (www.energyrating.gov.au).

Helping protect the environment

By buying energy-efficient appliances, you not only save money but also help protect the environment because the efficient use of nonrenewable resources like oil, gas and electricity cuts down on environmental pollution linked to energy production and use.

By using energy-efficient appliances you also help address the problem of climate change because the less energy we use, the lower our demand on power plants, which means less pollution. Carbon dioxide (CO_2) is the main gas affecting global warming and most equipment give off CO_2 emissions.

Savings

Major appliances like refrigerators, air conditioners and washing machines form a major part of your monthly bill. If your refrigerator or washing machine is more than 10 years old, you are consuming much more energy than you should. Today's major appliances consume much less energy because they are required by law to stay within minimum energy-efficiency standards. The following are practical tips for some of the most popular appliances.

• Refrigerators

The refrigerator being the biggest power consumer in households uses up to 8 percent of most energy bills. Manual-defrost models use about 50 percent less energy than automatic defrost models do. Chest (top loading) freezers are generally 10-15 percent more efficient than upright (front loading) freezers.

A new refrigerator today with better insulation, compressors and coils, consumes 75 percent less energy than those produced in the late 1970s.

Refrigerators 16-20 cubic feet in size with a freezer on the bottom or the top rather than on the side are the most energy efficient.

Vacuum the coils at the back of the refrigerator twice a year. It must be kept away from the stove, heat vents or direct sunlight. Air must be able to flow freely around the refrigerator. Door gaskets must be checked for leaks. Defrost freezer when ice builds up more than ¼ inch thick.

• Air conditioners

In small areas, it is more efficient to operate a small unit for a long period than a larger unit that is turned on and off regularly. When comparing units, choose the one with the highest Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) 10.0 or higher, as shown in the Energy Guide label.

By using a ceiling fan, the setting in your air conditioner will drop 3 to 6 degrees saving about 25 percent of energy costs in your home. Monthly cleaning of filter to reduce the use of fans saves energy. Let the unit warm up for a while before lowering the temperature setting.

• Washing machines

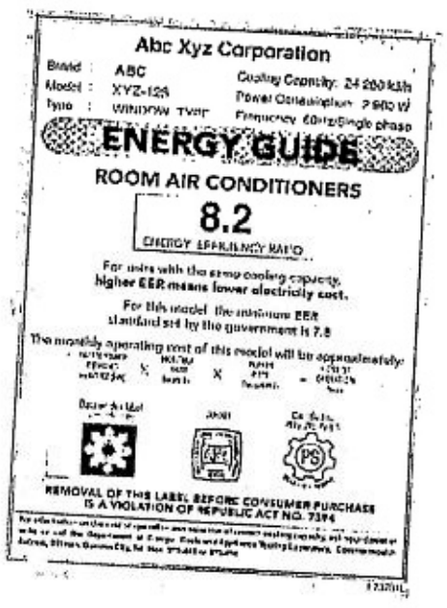
A front-loading (horizontal-axis) machine uses only a third of the energy and uses less water than the top-loading model, although it may cost more. It also saves more on clothes drying as they remove more water from your clothes during the spin cycle.

• Cooking appliances

With electric cook-tops, the size of the cookware should match the burner size. This means a 6" pan on an 8" burner will waste over 40 percent of the heat made by the burner. Keep the drip pan clean so they can reflect more heat up to the cookware. With electric burners, use flat-bottomed cookware that rests evenly on the burner surface. Electric burners are not efficient if the pan does not have good contact with the burner surface. With gas burners, check if the flame is bluish in color. If yellow, it is not efficient and should be checked by the gas company. As for microwave ovens, they use only 1/3 to 1/2 as much energy as conventional stoves.

• Home office equipment

Laptops consume 10 percent or less of the power consumed by typical desktop computers. Monitors consume about 50 percent of the energy that goes into computers. Shutting it off when not in use saves energy. For printers, inkjet printers have low-energy consumption and allow reuse of paper that helps the environment.



THE PHILIPPINE Energy Label displays the appliance's energy efficiency rating (EER or as measured under the test standard). Buyers can use this information to compare products if they wish. The label also shows the minimum efficiency requirement for that size and type of conditioner. Labels also show a range of other data such as rated voltage, frequency and capacity or volume.

SOURCE: WWW.ENERGYRATING.GOV.AU

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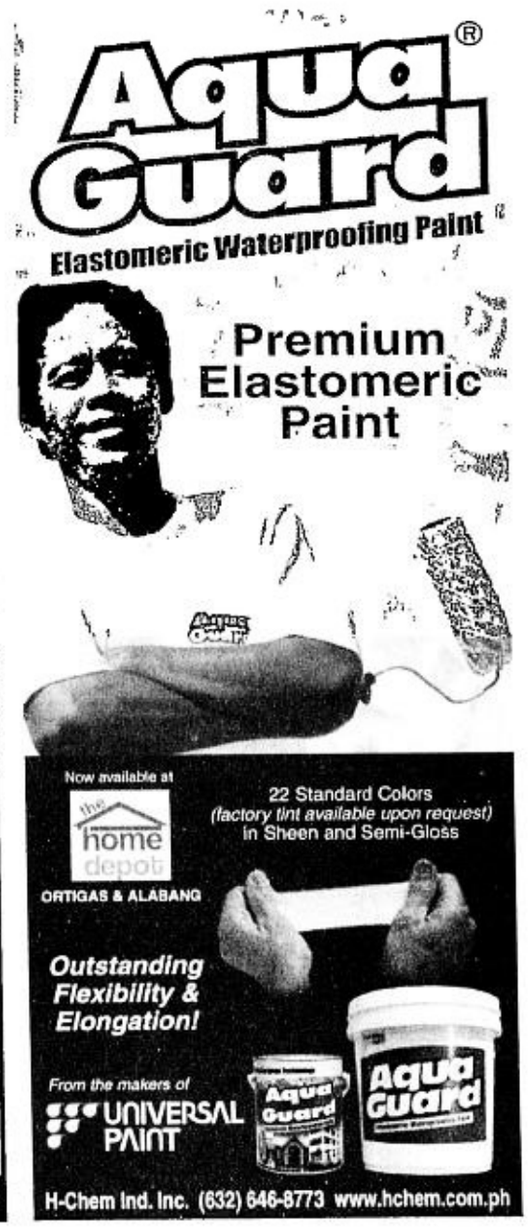


Brittany

Raises The Bar For Excellence With The Marfori At Brittany Bay

Brittany Corporation, the maverick in real estate development, takes its definition of real estate excellence to a higher level with the launching of The Marfori at Brittany Bay.

A Prime Address In A Premium Destination

An exclusive enclave of mid-rise condominiums standing 10 to 15-storeys high, The Marfori is the latest prime address in Brittany Bay, the next metropolitan hub of the near south.

The Marfori offers a breath-taking view of Laguna de Bay. Mornings are made all the more spectacular with sunrises over the Sierra Madre mountains. The bay breeze provides constant cool comfort. The architecture is charmingly neo-Victorian, inspired by the great city of San Francisco. Altogether, The Marfori's features make for a unique development, a sought after prime address.

At The Center Of Everything

Designed for interconnectivity, The Marfori is nestled right at the heart of Brittany Bay's grand masterplan. It is in the middle of the development's community of communities and the upcoming lifestyle and entertainment centers. It will soon be accessible via 4 major thoroughfares. Currently, The Marfori is easily reached through the East Service Road from Sucat Interchange. Soon, with the proposed C6 alignment, Makati and Ortigas will be an even easier drive.

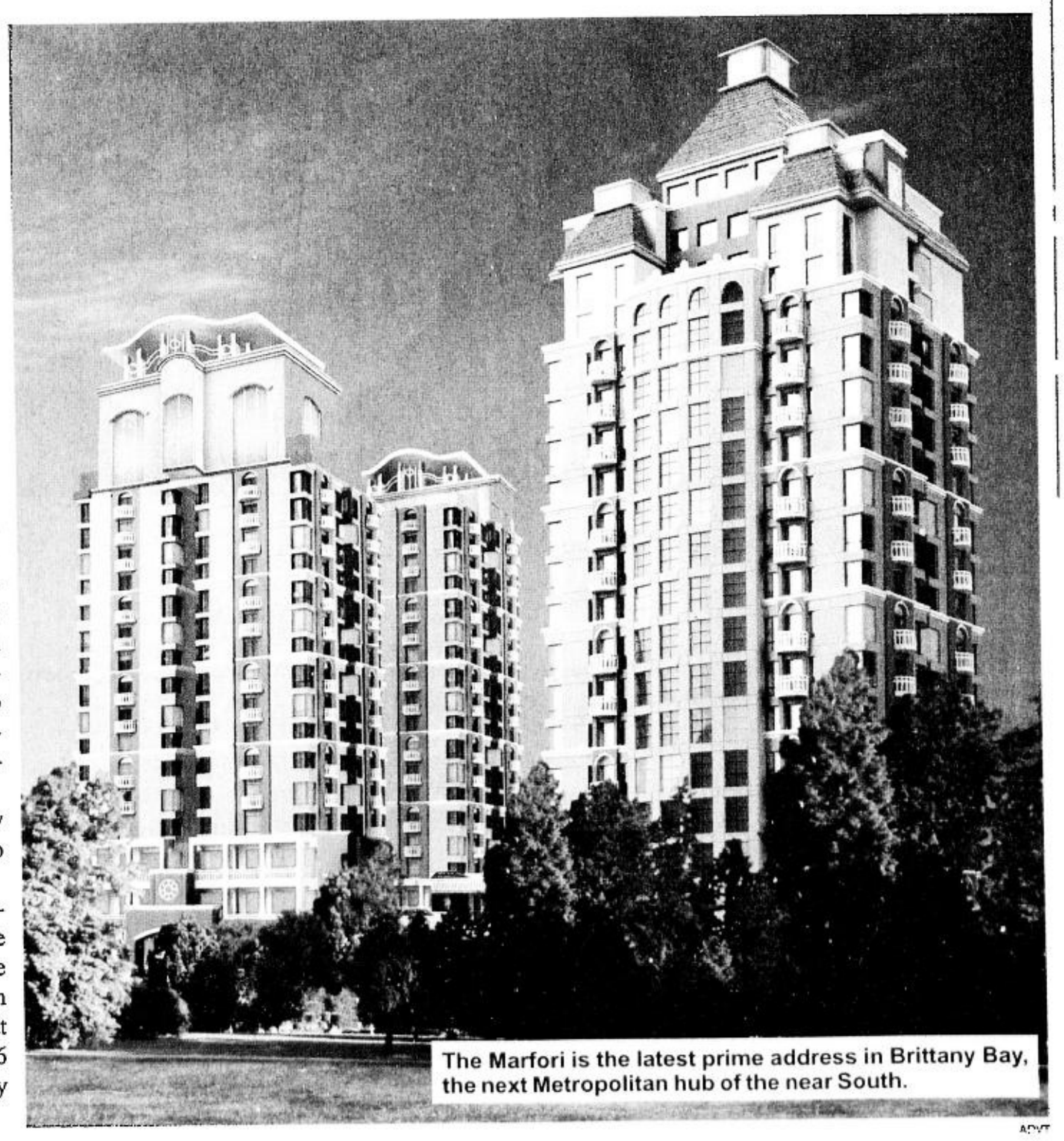
The location spelled great success for the first tower, Viera, which quickly sold out. Groundbreaking commences this September. Plans for the second tower are quickly getting off the ground.

A Life Of Urban Leisure

The leisurely life is easily enjoyed at The Marfori. A garden community, it features a walkable park. Cafes, bars and restaurants will soon be close by. A lap pool, a Jacuzzi and a Grand Hall add to one's day-to-day pleasures. Moreover it is close to Makati and Alabang's commercial centers and the leisure destinations of the near south.

With The Marfori, Birttany takes real estate excellence to another level.

Know more about The Marfori, Brittany's latest showcase for excellence. Come over to the groundbreaking of Viera on Sunday, September 3, 2006 at Brittany Bay. Call 850 2986 or 850 3868 for a Property Preview.



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With its 65% open area, families can have a refreshing condo living experience - allowing residents to fully enjoy, breathe, and relax in the environment of verdant greeneries and lots of trees. **Woodsville Viverde Mansions** boast of an array of amenities specially designed for the enjoyment of children and the whole family, indoor and outdoor playgrounds, adult and children swimming pools, village mall and much more.

Units are affordably available in 2 or 3-bedroom models - all offering attractive payment schemes that allow easy monthly payments.

To know more about **Woodsville Viverde Mansions,** please call 636-0888 or 0922-8380888.

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Super! Countdown

10 days 'til Marlone's day

Super! as directed by Manolo Abaya, Khavn Dela Cruz, Raul Jorolan, Mark Meilly, Raul Ona, page C2 Mark Querubin and Pepe Diokno!

Super! Artists' Fair starring KC Concepcion,

Borgy Manotoc, Sharon Cuneta, Tim Yap, Pops Fernandez, Phoem Barranda and more at the Rockwell Tent! page D1

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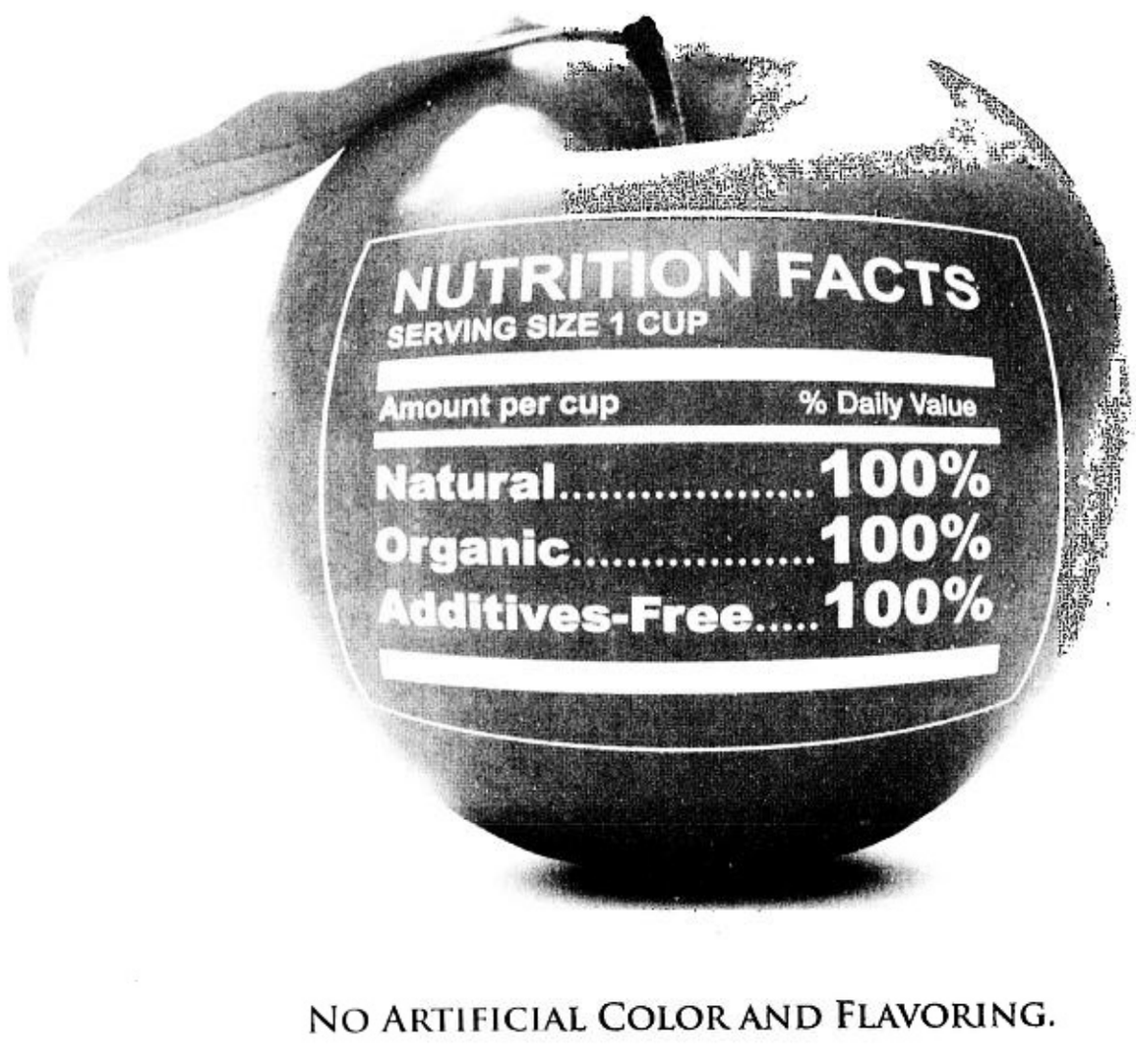

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DAHIL SA SMART TAYO

Mark Meily

The thing about the movie is ... finding a unique way of expressing one's love.

I grew up watching ... FPJ , Chuck Norris , Tito Vic & Joey movies (even cut classes just to watch), Herculoids, James at 15, Slasher movies,Porky's and FFs in Betamax from Cash & Carry.

I would like to work with ... Salma Hayek, Zhang Zi yi and cast Pedro Almodovar in my movie.

If I had my way, I would ... 1) do away with visa applications to other countries. How come any white pedophile can come here without a visa while an honest, hard-working Filipino needs at least a month to prove to the world that he will not work as an apple picker or an entertainer abroad? 2) Have all film critics make their own movies and then we directors criticize them.

My dream movie is all about ... the Filipinos in the 1904 St.Louis World Fair—the time when we were first introduced to the world as "dog-eaters." A tragic comedy.

Directors these days are ... very film literate and creative but (some are too) obsessed in being labeled INDIE.

My all time favorite film is/are ... Eat Drink Man, Woman (my epiphany film), Batch '81, Talk to Her, Sunset Blvd., Not One Less, City of Lost Children, Rear Window, Amores Perros, Bicycle Thief

I look up to ... Bing Lao, Pedro Almodovar, Mon Jimenez (of JimBasic), Ang Lee, and Haruki Murakami.

My dream would include ... living with my family in Paris or San Francisco and just write and direct one film every 2 years, maybe ... *sana* ...

When I say indie, I mean ... having a denim jacket with the words "FILMMAKER" embroidered on it then talk about the films I want to make without having to make them

I would entitle my biopic ... Grease ... or What They Got After Me Undergoing Liposuction.

Carabao! ... Goat! ... Dog! ... CUT!

Khavn De la Cruz

The thing about the movie ... is that it moves.

I grew up watching ... clocks.

I would like to work with ... handicapped presidents.

If I had my way ... I would be very frank and unload bullets in the nearest videoke bar.

My dream movie is ... all about dinosaurs on a plane.

Directors these days ... are deliciously dexterous.

My all time favorite film is/are ... "Ang Pelikula Ng Pagtawa At Paglimot": all the Philippine films destroyed due to deplorable lack of archiving.

I look up to ... small people and heavenly bodies.

My dream would include ... lots of water, a kid's birthday falling on a saturday night, and spending more time with you.

When I say indie ... I mean fine-looking Visayans.

I would entitle my biopic ... "My Biopic: This is not your life."

C, A, T, CUT!

Manolo Abaya

The theme about the movie is ... Puppy love. It explains itself.

I grew up watching ... Monty Pyhon.

I would like to work with ... Peter Jackson.

If I had my way ... I would rule the world.

My dream movie is ... all about peace on Earth.

Directors these days ... are funny.

My all time favorite film is ... Lord of the Rings.

I look up to ... no one.

My dream would include ... meeting Madonna in person.

When I say indie ... I mean up for grabs.

I would entitle my biopic ... Life is One Big Bakit.

Ang ganda!!! Cut!

Raul Jorolan

The thing about the movie is ... it entertains! Whether you're shocked and awed, laugh, cry, informed or just about anything, it gives a moment of pause from the daily grind.

I grew up watching ... cowboy movies, war movies, comedy movies, musicals and spectacles and James Bond.

I would like to work with ... Ridley Scott, Francis Ford Copolla and George Lucas.

If I had my way ... I would just be a painter and run all the world's marathons.

My dream movie is ... I'm waiting for it to happen. A lot of things excite me and all of these are possible good materials for a movie. One day soon I may put a lock on one.

Directors these days ... have a myriad of tools to add to their moviemaking palette. I can't mention all of it here but definitely these tools have greatly stretched the range by which one can cobble his craft whether shot on film or video. The ever-changing events in life, technology and style are mined for a wealth of materials to draw from. The digital maelstrom has allowed just about everyone with an interest to make his story into a movie possible. But more importantly, and basic of all, a good story or script is still the soul and the springboard for all things to happen. These are exciting times to be a director. I'm not talking budgets here.

My all-time favorite film is ... The Godfather series (especially 1 and 2).

I look up to ... all those who inspired and influenced me past and present.

My dream ... would include Jerry Bruckheimer producing a film for me.

When I say Indie ... I mean being less shackled.

I would entitle my biopic ... "Relentless."

Shorts are so 'in' this season

Indeed, the next story is on video

DIRECTOR'S CUTS. Different direks playing with their new toy

Tim Yap

THEY'RE ON A ROLL THESE days. If we go by the "Video Killed the Radio Star" lyrics, then mobile giant Nokia is on the right frame. Cut to seven young filmmakers showcasing seven different short films—all shot using the box office hit gadget of the moment, the Nokia N93. Advertising A-listers and the scene's film enthusiasts gathered at the Ayala Museum to celebrate the "now and the next."

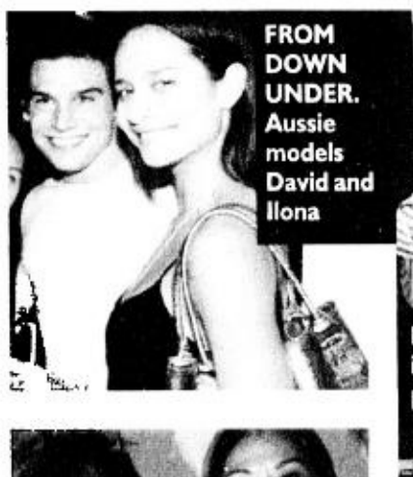
From stories that start with a *sorbetero* and ends with a sigarilyo, to puppy love moments and proposal jitters, the films featured a whole plethora of Pinoy pop culture pixels. **Manolo Abaya**, **Khavn Dela Cruz**, **Raul Jorolan**, **Mark Meilly**, **Raul Ona**, **Mark Querubin** and Super!'s very own **Pepe Diokno** were asked to tinker with their new toy, the little handheld video taking device disguised as a mobile phone. The result?

High-resolution, great quality short films that make you laugh, cringe, smile, ponder—that hop between the mushy to the mundane, from the dark and dangerous to the funny and futile. *La lang*.

"For those who missed the Nokia Nseries premiere, there will be another run at Greenbelt," proudly declared Nokia's communications navigator Luanne Erni, a vision in a black and white Kate Torralba dress. Nokia's country manager Parikhshit Bhasin also informed me of his move to Singapore, as he takes over regional reign over the brand. Congrats PB!

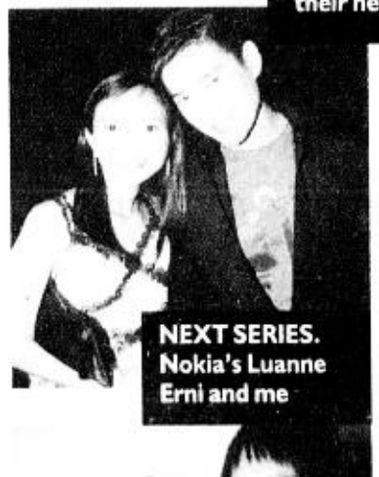
Checking Super!'s pop culture radar, it is safe to say that music is lording over the tills now, what with local artists outselling their foreign counterparts. But in the very near fututre, I therefore predict that the next Pinoy pop renaissance will be in film. The scene is ripe with the Quark Henareses and the Yam Laranases (both of them are Super! awardees by the way) of the world. Filmfest shooting season is upon us, so young filmmakers are active once again grinding the reels. Even television has recognized this fact, with ABC 5 pioneering with "Shorts" which airs indie cinema picks every Thursday at 9 p.m. There is solid movement on that scene, as indie cinema peeps are soon opening a coop theater for independent films. *Mabuhay*!

Yes, every other mobile phone now has MP3 players, but are any of them capable of making their own short film? Well, Super! gathered these seven wonders, and wondered whether the films they're making is the one where you're starring. **Cut!**



FROM DOWN UNDER. Aussie models David and Ilona

BBDO's David Guerrero intends to shoot his next project using this



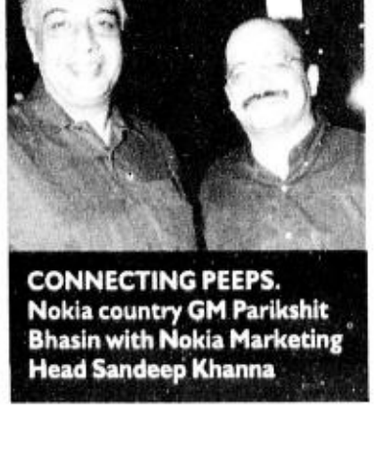
NEXT SERIES. Nokia's Luanne Erni and me

CLASS ACT. Liza Ilarde-Cuenca is editor in chief of Jetset

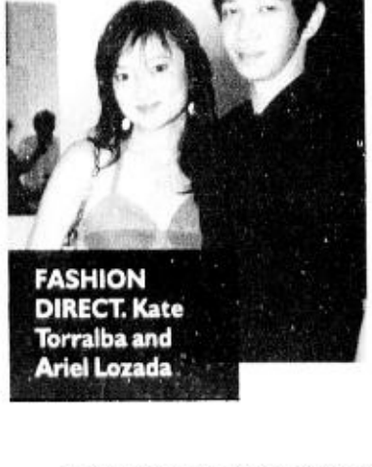
STARRING ROLES. Christine Jacob and Patrick Rosas

SUPPORTIVE CAST. Andrej Wisniewski, Myrza Sison

METRO SEA. Tessa Prieto-Valdes with Thelma San Juan



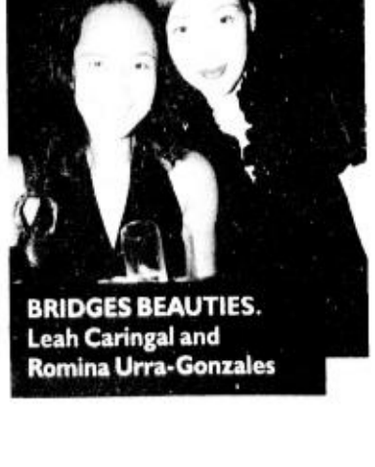
CONNECTING PEEPS. Nokia country GM Parikshit Bhasin with Nokia Marketing Head Sandeep Khanna



FASHION DIRECT. Kate Torralba and Ariel Lozada

SUMMIT SERIES. Pauline Juan and Ianne Evangelista

YOU WANT ONE? Models with the Nokia N93



BRIDGES BEAUTIES. Leah Caringal and Romina Urra-Gonzales

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-pe Diokno

thing about the movie is ... it's about fear. I'
k.
grew up watching ... really weird stuff. It's
y, the movie from my childhood that sticks
most in my memory is this comedy-horror
y B-movie called "Hocus Pocus."
would like to work with ... Jim Broadbent,
ome reason. And again, for some reason,
ette Inventor. That was not a joke.
I had my way ... I would be out shooting
now somewhere in the Sahara desert. Yes.
oting a "Panday" movie.
My dream movie is ... all about (I can't really
ou, but—) Napoleon Bonaparte. I would
to play Napoleon Bonaparte.
irectors these days ... are really, really nice.
grin.
My all time favorite film is/are ... House of
g Daggers, and Hero. (Yes, Chinese
s!)
look up to ... um, tall
ple.
My dream would include ... a beach and a volcano. That's what I dreamt about last night. Or is that revealing too much about myself?
When I say indie ... I mean trendy.
I would entitle my biopic ... Batman Declines Remove your clothes, Cut! (Didn't really need that, but thanks!)

Mark Querubin

The thing about the movie is ... it was shot with a phone the size of a cigarette pack where 40 minutes of video was stored in a memory card which was the size of a thumbnail!!!
I grew up watching ... cars pass by from our 7th floor apartment
I would like to work with ... Forest Whitaker and Zhang Ziyi
If I had my way, I would ... skip all my meetings and just keep shooting and editing
My dream movie is ... a musicale!!!
Directors these days are ... everywhere
My all time favorite film is/are ... *masyadong marami*!!!
I look up to ... my dad
My dream would include ... a multi cam setup for an eight minutes dance sequence with a cast of around 200 dancers and a few animals here and there.
When I say indie, I mean ... no
I would entitle my biopic ... looking for comedy in the real world
That was good, cut!

Raul Ona

The thing about the movie is ... real life, real time using the N93
I grew up watching ... Sine Siete, Jacques Cousteau docs
I would like to work with ... my daughter, Mikko & my son, Jiro
If I had my way, I would ... live by the beach, full-time
My dream movie is all about ... Eddie Garcia & Pilar Pilapil *sa* Boracay or El Nido
Directors these days are ... full of attitude
My all time favorite film is/are ... *depende sa araw*
I look up to ... Jun Urbano, Gerry deLeon
My dream would include ... having a resort in Palawan
When I say indie, I mean ... *walang ibang nakialam*
I would entitle my biopic ... SIRAULOna!!! Happy *na ba* agency? *ako kanina pa*, good... CUT!

MUST TRY, lah!

Eat a chance to win a Trip to Singapore!

From August 1 to September 30, 2006, savor the many delectable MUST TRY dishes at any of the participating Singaporean food establishments for a chance to win 1 of 10 trips to Singapore!

So follow your cravings and get ready for a Uniquely Singapore experience!

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His work has taken him all over the world—and now he's in the Philippines to style cocktails and offer bar, club and hotel consultations.

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Tune in to Asia's First and Only Preschool Learning Channel for FREE on SKYCABLE Channel 33!

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6pm, September 2

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Whitening "Spot & Wrinkle" Corrector

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** Off Thailand on 103 women.

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Gong Li

Get 20% OFF on L'Oreal's breakthrough anti-ageing products

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Available in leading department stores, beauty stores and supermarkets.

Superstar

SUPER! ARTIST' FAIR '06

Tomorrow is going to be a Super! Sunday

Super! gives you over 50 reasons to head over to the Rockwell Tent this Sunday, Sept. 3, from 10 a.m. onwards

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available at the infants' wear department We've got it all for you!

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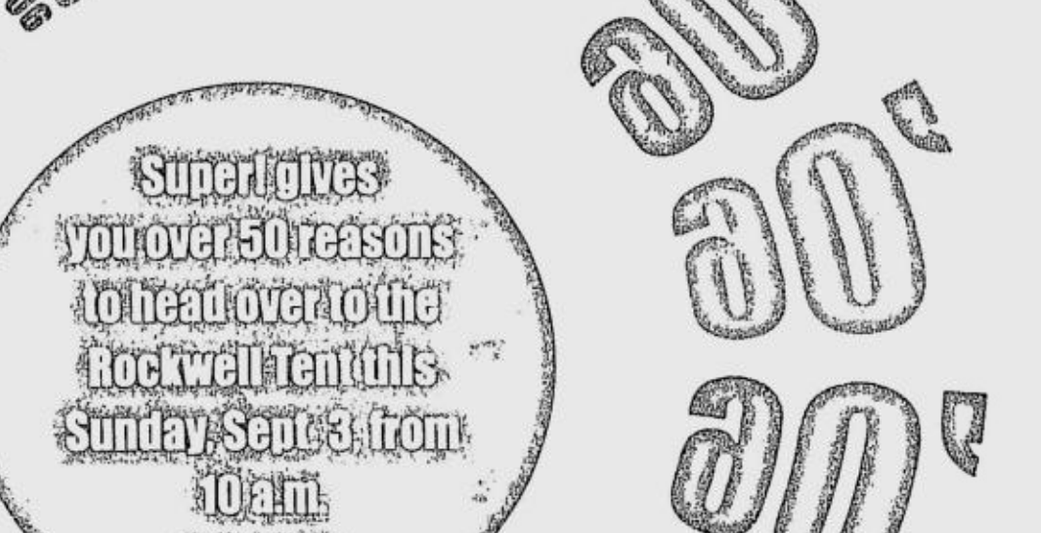

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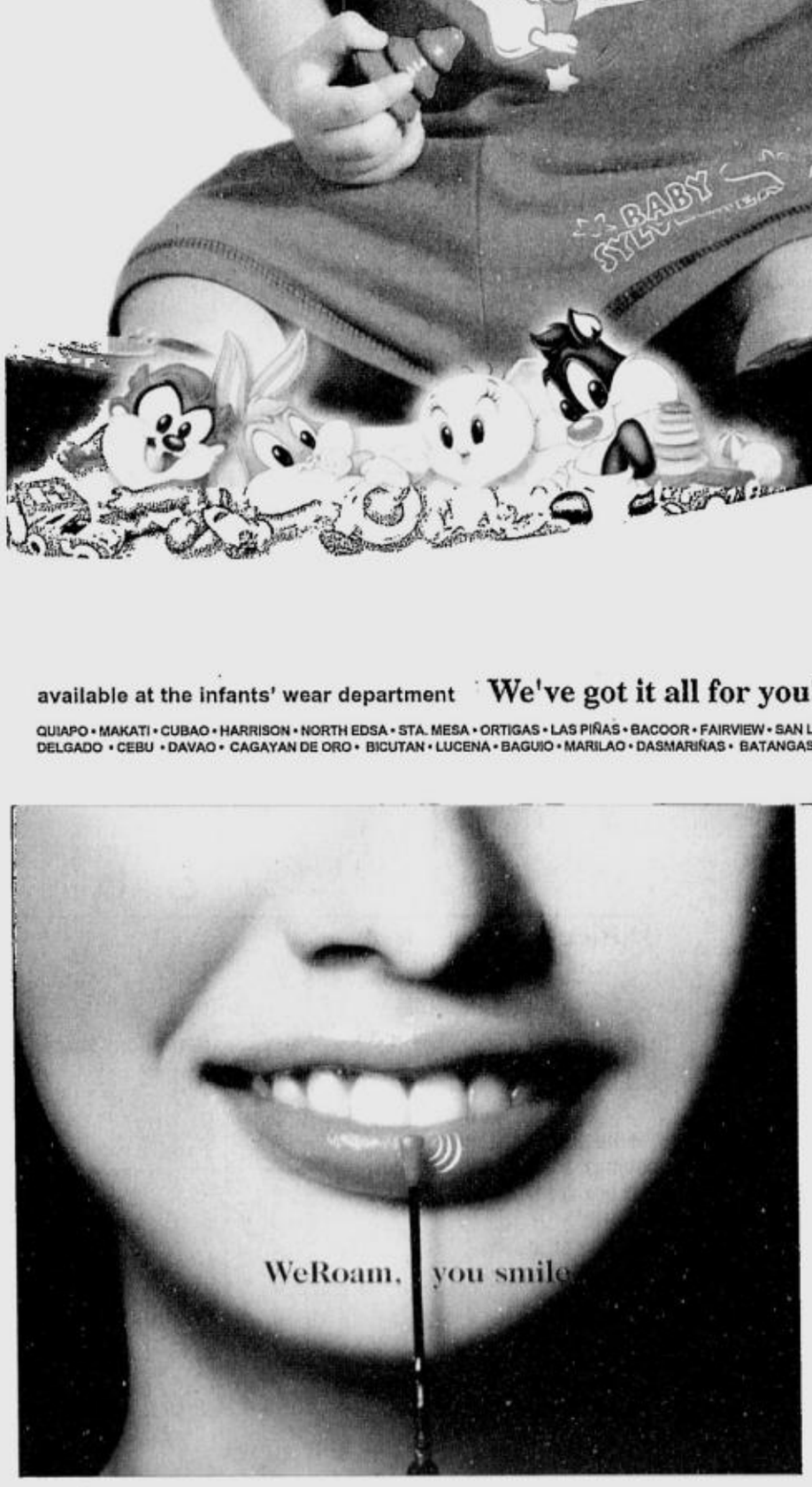

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Unlimited GPRS/EDGE Internet
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01 | To WeLoad at SMART Wireless Centers and Select PC Shops

1. Visit a WeLoad Station - a SMART Wireless Center or any Silicon Valley, Villman or Ng Khai Cebu PC store. Check www.pldtweroam.com for the complete addresses.
2. WeLoad for as low as P 75 / day.

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14 days	P 675
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1. Available to subscribers with SMART Money accounts. Check www.smart.com.ph for detailed instructions on SMART Money activation
2. Using a SMART Money - ready phone, text

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3. You will receive a text message confirming your transaction and your new WeLoad will be credited immediately.

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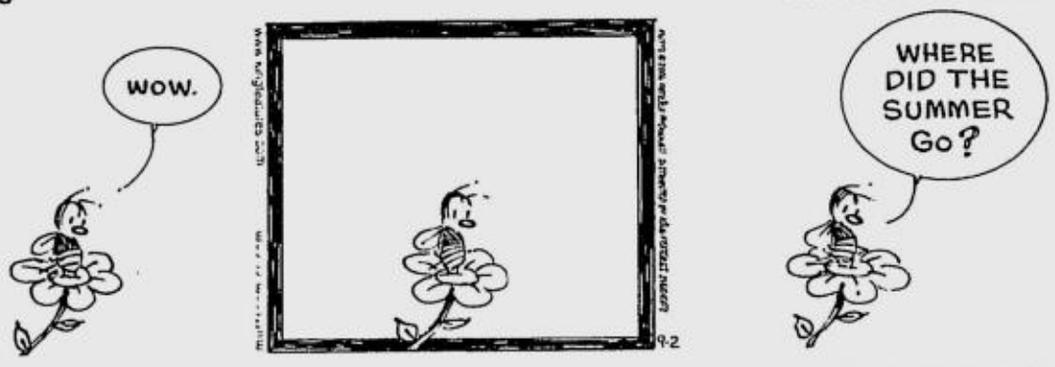
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

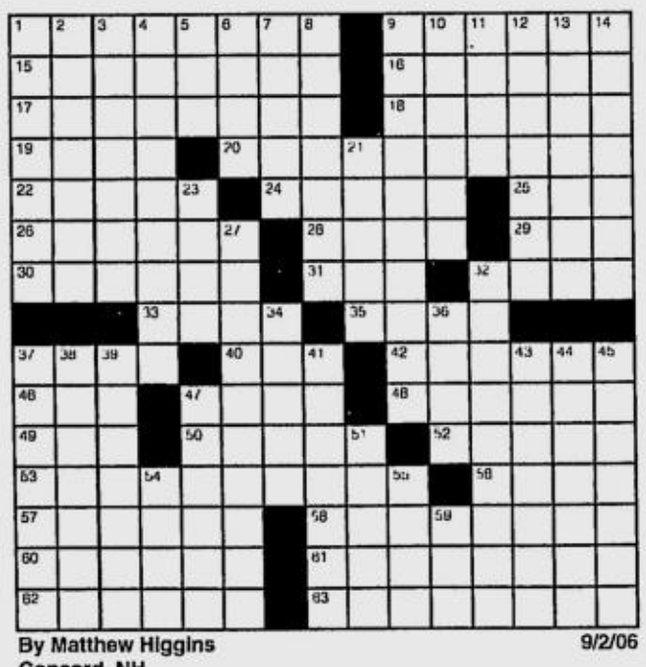
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

9/2/06

ACROSS
1 Butterfly in Bogota
9 Everest guide
15 Financially rewarding
16 British patriarchs
17 Ignorant
18 Speaks with pomposity
19 Nabisco favorite
20 Fence-sitting
22 Hotel's offerings
24 Viral lumps
25 Neither's partner
26 Out for the night?
28 Fling
29 William Tell's canton
30 Gangster's rod
31 & so on
32 Phoenix neighbor
33 Imitates
35 Circle of light
37 Topmost point
40 Harbor work boat
42 Full of eagerness
46 Put on
47 Move slightly
48 Brooding hen
49 Municipal govt. member
50 Yothers and Louise
52 Mexican muralist Rivera
53 Voyeur
56 Crop of a bird
57 Mexican menu item
58 Set going
60 Banishes
61 Storyteller
62 Time out
63 Straining workmen

DOWN
1 Hanukkah candelabrum
2 Needle-shaped
3 Reddish rash
4 1040 calculation
5 Taro dish
6 Warning sign
7 Muscular power
8 Put into motion
9 High-powered two-seaters
10 Annoy continually
11 And others, briefly
12 Entourage
13 Roman magistrates
14 Ancient empire on the Tigris
21 Pledge of faithfulness
23 Ooze
27 Attractive quality
32 Funeral director
34 Taking to court
36 Installed, as carpet
37 Converting device
38 Weapon of the Middle Ages
39 Native to a particular region
41 Discordant
43 Repeat
44 One who nullifies
45 Cultivators
47 Entrance gates
51 Sub finder
54 Wan
55 Spanish surrealist painter Joan
59 First syllable of a refrain

Friday's Puzzle Solved

O	V	A	L	■	C	H	O	P	■	P	A	N	E	L
M	A	R	E	■	L	I	M	O	■	A	S	A	N	A
A	L	G	A	■	E	L	A	N	■	L	A	S	S	O
H	O	U	R	O	F	T	R	I	U	M	P	H	■	■
A	R	E	N	A	■	■	■	E	N	O	■	V	E	T
■	■	■	■	H	A	N	D	S	O	F	T	I	M	E
M	U	S	C	U	L	A	R	■	■	F	E	L	I	X
A	S	T	A	■	S	P	I	N	S	■	A	L	T	A
C	H	O	R	E	■	■	F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S
H	E	L	E	N	O	F	T	R	O	Y	■	■	■	■
O	R	E	■	C	O	L	■	■	■	R	O	U	G	H
■	■	H	E	A	P	O	F	T	R	O	U	B	L	E
P	H	O	D	S	■	W	A	K	E	■	N	O	O	N
J	A	M	I	E	■	E	T	O	N	■	C	A	A	N
S	P	E	E	D	■	R	E	S	T	■	E	T	T	A

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9/2/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Justice matters to you. You believe in fairness, and you hate phony pretension. You say what you mean, and you mean what you say. You have your own code of honor to which you subscribe. You're practical and resourceful, yet attracted to adventure and excitement. The year ahead is stimulating because it's filled with many new possibilities for you. It's a whole new world.
Birthdate of: Keanu Reeves, actor; Jimmy Connors, tennis player; Salma Hayek, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The pace at work today might be insane and erratic. Unexpected interruptions, computer crashes and power failures could be some reasons for having a bizarre day!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Parents must be vigilant with children today. This is an accident-prone day. Children can get lost or confused about things. (Love at first sight could also happen.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Take things slowly at home today, or else you might break something or lose it. Family members might be excited or possibly upset. Just go with the flow.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might be a bit blunt in conversation with others today. Avoid saying things simply to shock people. (You're tempted to do this.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Watch your money today. You might find some; you might lose some. Impulse buying will definitely tempt you. Try to be aware of what you're doing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Others seem to be slow today. But in truth, you might be the one who needs to put the brakes on. Guard against a tendency to rush hastily through everything today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't worry if you're distracted by feelings of nervousness or self-doubt. This is a passing influence that will be gone in 24 hours. Just cope as best you can. (No big deal.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): New acquaintances or members of groups that are new to you might challenge your way of thinking and doing things. Actually, this could be an opportunity to learn something.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Parents, bosses, teachers and authority figures could throw you a curveball today. Be ready for anything. The introduction of new forms of technology might be temporarily overwhelming.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to study mathematics, astrology, astronomy or any kind of technical or scientific discipline. You're ready to see the world with new eyes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): If you dig up red-tape details connected with insurance, estates, inheritances and shared property, you might be surprised at what you discover. Stay on top of this scene.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're impatient with routine. You want to do something different and meet new people. An old friend might show you an entirely different side of his or her personality.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

	7	3	2					
	6		9			2	5	4
	2		4					1
						5	2	7
6	5	8						
3					2		7	
9	1	2			8		4	
					9	8	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/02

Conceptis Puzzles, Dist by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	3	4	1	8	5	2	6	7
8	7	2	9	3	6	5	4	1
5	6	1	7	2	4	9	8	3
1	2	8	6	5	9	3	7	4
4	9	6	3	7	1	8	2	5
7	5	3	2	4	8	1	9	6
3	4	9	8	1	7	6	5	2
2	8	5	4	6	3	7	1	9
6	1	7	5	9	2	4	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/01

Tomorrow is going to be a Super! Sunday

SUPER! ARTISTS' FAIR AND CELEBRITY BAZAAR . . . AND YOU ARE ALL INVITED!

Get your dose of art by watching the performances and witnessing the artistic prowess of

2. Boy 2 Quizon
4. Bitaw
6. The I Love You Girls
8. Furball
10. Collision Theory
12. Spoonman
14. Sweet Spot
16. Jourdan
Sebastian
18. Noli Coronado
20. Inconnu
24. Elemento
26. Ugong

GOETHE-INSTITUT MANILA

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

The 3rd German Silent Film Festival

presents

Asphalt

with music by Cynthia Alexander

on Tuesday, September 05, 2006, at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 2, 8:00 PM

Stalk your favorite celebrities and get the chance to buy great finds from

28. Sharon Cuneta
30. Borgy
Manotoc
32. Pops Fernandez
34. Kooky and Richard Tuason
36. The Valencianos

Whip out your wallets and flex your shopping muscles by visiting the booths of

38. Kate Torralba
40. Zee
Castro
42. Cielo Frontreras
46. Grace Wong
48. Rowie Uy
50. Cherie Altea
52. Pam Pastor
56. Gino de la Paz

Make a differences in people's lives through

58. The Virlanie Foundation

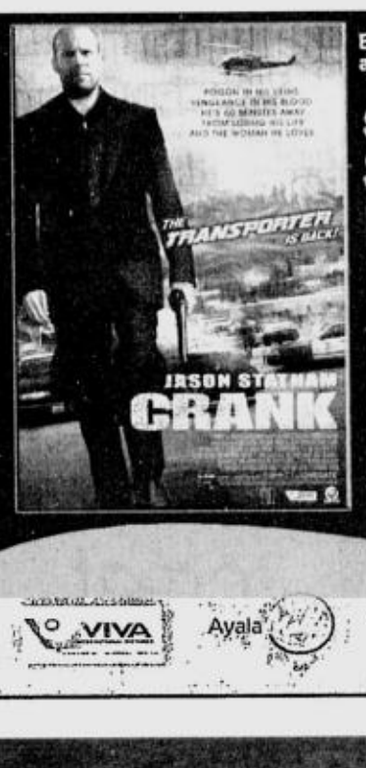
And that's just the beginning

Sunday
art,
artists,
celebrities
pop culture

Break open that piggy bank, call all your friends and save your energy for a Super! Sunday.

making great things possible Globe

GREENBELT



Be among the first to watch at regular admission price

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW

September 4 (Mon.) & 5 (Tue.)

GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
GLORIETTA 1
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THX

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Pat BTI Permit No. 7340 Series of 2006

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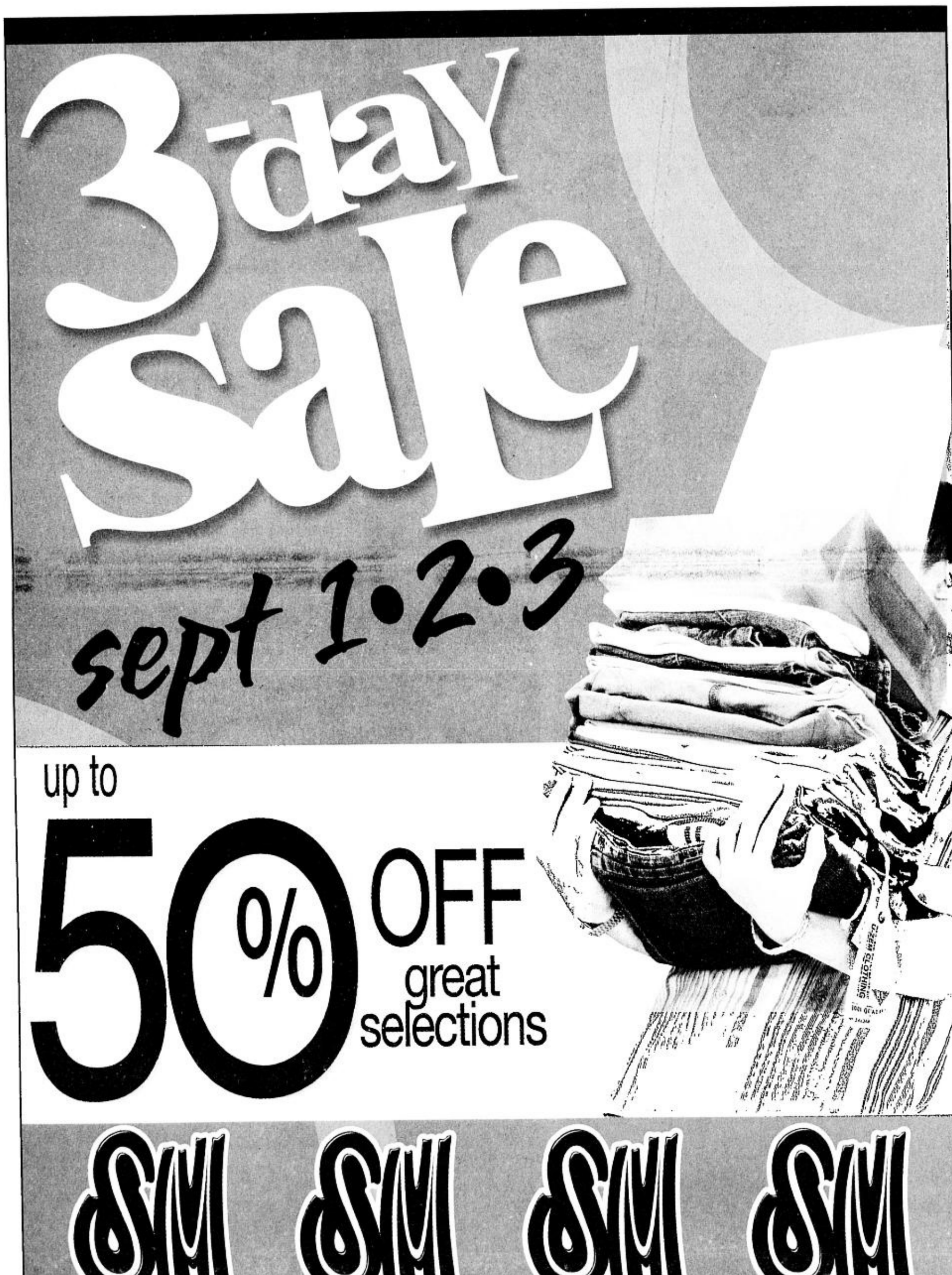
SHOWERS of SAVINGS

at 4 SM Supermalls

Shoppers at **SM City Fairview, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Sta. Rosa** and **SM City Clark** will be treated to showers of hot finds, cool savings and special buys during the malls' **simultaneous 3 - Day Sale on September 1, 2,** and **3.**

Flurries of discounts on a wide assortment of items are tagged at up to **50% off**. Several other exciting promo events are also offered mallwide.



win WOW! MAGIC SING

Every P500 minimum purchase at participating mall establishments during the weekend of **Sept. 1, 2 and 3** entitles shoppers to join the raffle promo.

A total of **80** Wow Magic Sing units (20 units for 20 winners per mall) are at stake in the 3-Day Sale raffle event.

plus! more chances to **win**

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draw schedules

Sale shoppers are enjoined to share the excitement of the raffle draws scheduled as follows:

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
(Activity Area)
Sun., Sept. 3, 10:15pm (20 units)

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
(Upper Ground Flr.)
Sun., Sept. 3, 10pm (20 units)

SM CITY STA. ROSA
(Event Center)
Mon., Sept 4, 1pm (20 units)

SM CITY CLARK
(The Event Centre)
Fri., Sept 1, 9:15pm (5 units)
Sat., Sept 2, 9:15pm (5 units)
Sun., Sept 3, 9:15pm (10 units)

All reasons to shop at SM City Fairview

Hundreds of great finds at great savings are in store for shoppers at SM City Fairview during the 3-Day Sale on September 1, 2 and 3. SM City Fairview answers the need of fast-growing northside communities for an all-in-one shopping destination that complements their lifestyle.

Stop-over convenience at SM City San Lazaro

Strategically located along AH Lacson Avenue and Felix Huertas Street in central Manila, SM City San Lazaro is the popular stop-over for thousands of commuters who can shop for their urgent and basic necessities before or after school or before going home.

City Shopping at SM City Sta. Rosa

Opened to the public earlier this year, SM City Sta. Rosa offers Laguna residents of San Pedro, Cabuyao, Biñan, Calamba, Canlubang, Carmona and Los Baños towns the opportunity to experience city shopping closer to home. Easily accessible to commuting shoppers, SM City Sta. Rosa is located along the National Road in Barrio Tagapo.

So much to do at SM City Clark

A myriad of malling pleasures are always in store for Central Luzon shoppers at SM City Clark. Set in a sprawling location at the gateway of the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) in Angeles, SM City Clark is the ultimate stop for shopping, dining and fun.

With so many things going for them, SM mallers and patrons are expected to take advantage of the 3-day bonanza in store for them on September 1, 2 and 3.

SM City FAIRVIEW | SM City SAN LAZARO | SM City STA. ROSA | SM City CLARK

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WOW! MAGIC SING the **best-selling** magic sing

See mechanics poster for details

SATURDAY special

'Idol' and 'Academy' finalists compared

"SCHOLARS" of "Pinoy Dream Academy."

SOME of "Philippine Idol's" Top 24 bets (above and top).

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST WEEKEND, "PINOY Dream Academy" announced its 16 "scholars," while "Philippine Idol" went down to its final 24. Since "Academy" was telecast on Saturday and "Idol" only a day later, the ABS-CBN talent search effectively upstaged the ABC-5 tilt, which had earlier enjoyed a head start.

Impact

What difference does a mere day make? At face value, not much—but, its psychological impact could be substantial. As we feared, "Academy's" fast-tracking sapped "Idol" of some of its initial time advantage, since it set the talent standard by which ABC-5's own finds were subsequently evaluated.

'IDOL'/ E4

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Ex: Luk4 FUD2GO CHINESE or Luk4 RESTO BURGOO and send to Luk4.
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See mechanics posters for details

BDO Rewards Cardholders also enjoy this special privilege

Check the Lifestyle Section every other week for the latest in SM Advantage promos and attractions

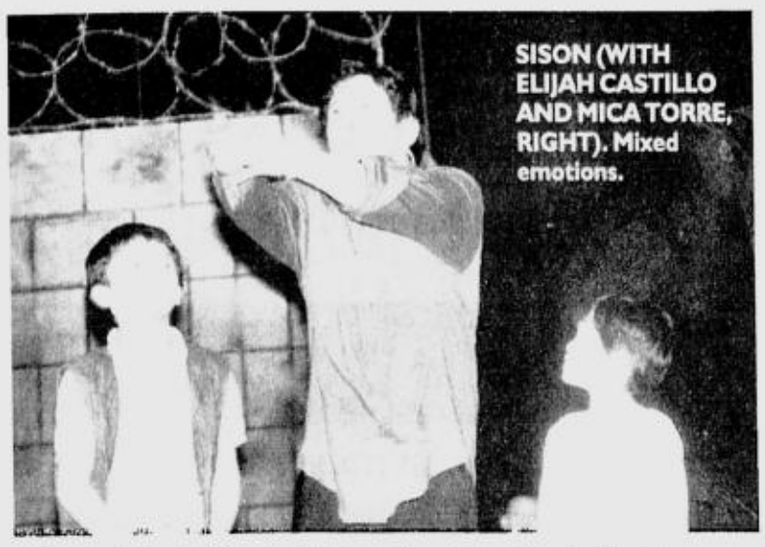
'Pag-ibig sa Bayan' sets repeat performances

By Andy Bais

THE ACCLAIMED martial law musical, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," starring Marco Sison and Jane Diaz, will be performed again on Sept. 23 at the Meralco Theater, in October in Cagayan de Oro City, and November in Davao City, to further disseminate its inspiring message about courage and heroism in the dangerous but necessary struggle against political oppression.

TENSE moment as soldiers disperse a rally in the musical's dramatization of the country's traumatic martial law experiences.

DIAZ (center) and Sison (right) play proud parents in this wacky delivery room scene.



SISON (WITH ELIJAH CASTILLO AND MICA TORRE, RIGHT). Mixed emotions.

Catalyst

The Meralco performance is a benefit show for Caritas Manila, and is sponsored by Metrobank Foundation and Foundaiton Specialists, Inc. As the lead social-mission arm of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila under Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales, Caritas mobilizes the different parishes in Manila, Mandaluyong, Makati and Pasay and San Juan for the benefit of the urban poor. It also serves as a catalyst in the Suffragan Dioceses of Cubao, Kalookan, Novaliches, Parañaque and Pasig.

Caritas Manila's core programs are geared toward integral human development, and the spiritual and socioeconomic development of the poor.

"Pag-ibig sa Bayan" is based on Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s book, "Martial Law in the Philippines: My Story" (now available in all National Bookstore outlets), and dramatizes the ordeal suffered by Pimentel and his family during that dark period in the country's modern political history.

PIMENTEL AND ROSALES. Benefit show for Caritas.

It is written and directed by Nestor U. Torre, with music and lyrics by Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel. Its initial run at Meralco theater earlier this year elicited raves from key members of the audience, who detailed their reactions to the show, expressing how strongly it had impacted on them:

Former President Corazon C. Aquino: "I thought the delivery room scene was very cute. And how Nestor Torre was able to squeeze in so many important events in the musical in amazing!"

Eggie Apostol: "Very entertaining! The musical has an important message for everyone. It should be shown all over the country."

Touching

Former Sen. Loren Legarda: "It was touching, thought-provoking and entertaining. It made me feel sad, because what Nene and other nationalists were fighting for 20 years ago are the same issues we are still fighting for today. Marco Sison and Jane Diaz did very well in their roles as Nene and Bing. Although the play was political, making it entertaining as well as thought-provoking is a tribute to the director.

Dean Antonio Tupaz: "It was an awesome musical—honest, painful, factual—the hurt softened by the songs, yet the *melancholia* could not melt the truth in Nene's courage and heroism. Bing's musical genius has global content."

Detention

Retired Justice Jose Vitug: "Spectacular! The youth should see the show, especially those who never experienced martial law. I was touched by the scenes where the Pimentel kids visited their father in detention. You could feel the mixed emotions of sadness and happiness. the play was handled very well. Congratulations!"

If you want to watch "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" at Meralco Theater on Sept 23 and support Caritas Manila, or would like the musical to be shown in your school or locality, call Ruby at 851-3120.

NOW SHOWING

Love rules in two new Pinoy flicks

By Rito P. Asilo

"You Are the One"

D: Cathy Garcia-Molina
S: Sam Milby, Toni Gonzaga

IN HIS SEARCH FOR THE *PINOY* parents who gave him up for adoption as a little boy, Fil-Am Will Bernard Derby (Sam Milby), a vice consul at the US embassy in Manila, gets his comeuppance when he runs into Sally Malasmas (Toni Gonzaga) at the Census office.

The former has not endeared himself to the latter: Will earlier denied Sally's visa application, and, still seething from the rejection, she gets back at him by "demonstrating" the infamous "bureaucratic red tape"—until she's forced by circumstances to win his good side.

As local rom-coms go, the cat-and-mouse pair ends up falling for each other—after a serendipitous pig chase at a town fiesta: He finds the fuzzy warmth of the extended Filipino family appealing, while she detects a broken, vulnerable spirit behind Will's tough, macho veneer. How sweet. But, fairy tale princes and princesses don't always get their happily-ever-after endings easily, and neither do Will and Sally.

In Will's case, he's not sure if his real family is ready to welcome him back into the domestic fold. On the other hand, the feisty but insecure Sally is uncertain if Will's amorous ways can really lead to love. Should we tell you how the story ends?

GONZAGA AND MILBY. She evinces flashes of comedic brilliance, he has dramatic sensitivity.

Milby proves that his performance in "Close to You" was no fluke. The guy, especially when he's not sporting his sickeningly saccharine smile, has dramatic sensitivity, and acquits himself well in both light and intimate moments.

Gonzaga, for her part, tries hard—well, maybe *too* hard—and comes up with a characterization so fiercely rigid it's sometimes tiring to see her seethe and simmer. But, Toni shows flashes of comedic brilliance that help her coast along in less-than-inspired comic sequences.

In crowd-pleasers like 2004's "Bcuz of U" and the recent "Close to You," we have noted Molina's adept directorial style, as well as her ability to inject relevant social commentary into her oeuvre.

But, her latest big-screen effort feels too engineered to be truly empathetic—even the finale's confrontation scene in the rain feels too staged. But, we're sure we haven't seen the best of this talented filmmaker yet.

"Jupit"

D: Alvin Reyes Fortuno
S: Ate Gay, Tim Espinosa

For all its swishy pomp and camp, Alvin Reyes Fortuno's digital indie—which gets its title from gay jargon ("*gupit*," haircut)—is, for a change, a wholesome cinematic depiction of the homosexual lifestyle: In this case, the parlor-gay variety.

But, aside from its eye-catching poster, there's not much going for this predictable albeit well-meaning movie, about Tetay (Ate Gay, who does well in the role), a Nora Aunor- and Kris Aquino-adoring hairstylist, who always falls for the wrong guys—until Fil-Am Glen (Tim Espinosa) arrives in his neighborhood and sweeps Tetay off his feet!

But, the vagaries of love and romance, whether among straights or gender-benders, are a consistent universal mind-boggler—they're never easy to fathom.

Overtly homophobic Neanderthals, however, won't find this gay-meets-boy romp amusing. But, to be fair, this technically-flawed production has tender, touching, even hilarious moments—there are just not enough of them to fill the protracted running time, and, unfortunately, not much story to tell, either.

James Bond for the adolescent set

By Noelani Torre

IF YOU'RE WATCHING "STORMbreaker" because of Ewan McGregor, you're going to be in for a disappointment. He only gets one chase scene and several lines of dialogue before his 10 minutes of screen time end. And if you're watching the movie for Alicia Silverstone, well, she more or less suffers the same fate.

The stars in this action fantasy aren't the big names (which include Mickey Rourke, Bill Nighy, Stephen Fry, Andy Serkis, and Sophie Okonedo), but an unknown actor playing a 14-year-old teenager who leads a life that every insecure youngster in the real world would love to lead.

First book

"Stormbreaker" is based on the first book of the same title in Anthony Horowitz's popular young adult series featuring teenage spy extraordinaire, Alex Rider. Played by Alex Pettyfer, Rider is a seemingly typical teen living with his banker uncle (McGregor) and their housekeeper (Silverstone).

Alex turns out to be more than your usual British schoolboy when he morphs into a junior James Bond, after his uncle is killed and is revealed to be an agent for Her Majesty's Secret Service.

It turns out that, by giving him lessons in martial arts, sharp shooting and foreign languages, Rider Senior has actually been training him to be a spy.

Soon, Rider is dragged into working for MI6 to finish his uncle's case against computer mogul, Darrius Sayle (Rourke).

SILVERSTONE AND PETTYFER. Play housekeeper and teen super-spy, respectively.

It's a farfetched tale: It's hard to believe that the Secret Service would *really* send a relatively untrained teenager to do an operation all by himself—but, this is adolescent fantasy, after all, and in the book, Horowitz is able to make you suspend disbelief. Unfortunately, he and director Geoffrey Sax haven't quite managed to carry it off on the big screen.

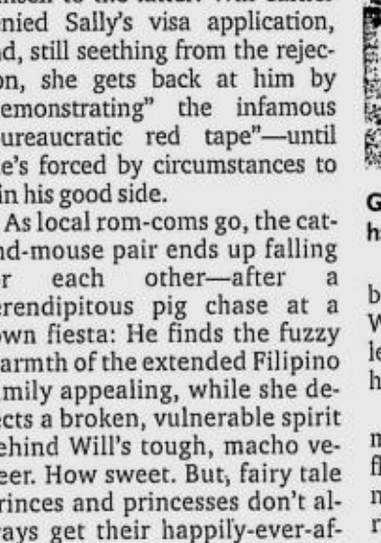
Two-dimensional

You never believe in Alex Rider, or in the feats he accomplishes. His character is two-dimensional, and his utter perfection—good looks, astounding combat skills, an ultra-cool, no-nerves approach—elicits no sympathy from viewers.

This is partly the script's fault, but you must also give discredit where it is due: Alex Pettyfer is a pretty boy who will no doubt attract girls, but his

JAMES/ E7

Photos auctioned off for a cause



GO. P20,000 for her simple but beautiful photograph.

JOHNNY LITTON SAID HIS sole experience in auctioning photographs resulted in—zero sales!

With that as barometer, Rosan Cruz, who conceptualized the "Batanes and Other Destinations" exhibit (to benefit the Batanes Heritage Foundation in its efforts to restore an Ivatan stone house), opened the bidding at P3,000 for the Top Seven photographs about Batanes, and IT engineer Rani Fernandez's still image of "Simbaan a Bassit," a Vigan *camposanto* built in 1852.

Cruz was among 16 participating former workshoppers whose works were on display at Rockwell's Power Plant Mall. The photographs were quickly sold out. Lawyer Noel Liok's "Fishing Village" went fast, as Litton continued the bidding.

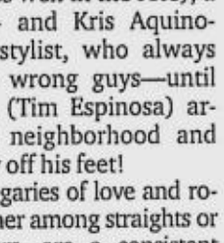
Bronze sculpture

Other works at the auction: Fifth placer was Roxy Matsuda's "Sabtang Lighthouse," while Liana Romulo and Ralph Diaz tied for fourth place.

Julie Lluch's life-size bronze sculpture, "Jorge Sr. and Aurora Abad," (parents of Butch and Pacita Abad) and Ralph Diaz's "Song Song Ruins," about a place hit by a tsunami in 1957, were also auctioned off.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero



Images

In third place was 15-year-old Amanda Navasero's "In Picturesque Sabtang," which was bought by a Taiwanese-American. Ralph Diaz, a retired agriculturist, won for his "Rolling Hills."

Nobody expected Bettina Go to win the first prize, because she simply tagged along to see the place and do simple point-and-shoot photography.

With digital technology, we merely increased the resolution of a photo about a young, innocent girl by a stone window. After minor feuding among bidders, the picture was sold for a whopping P20,000!

Tickets

Asian Spirit, which raffled off two tickets for a Manila-Basco-Manila flight (with three nights-four days' stay either at the Fundacion Pacita or at the Lighthouse Inn at Naiidi Hills), awarded the coveted prize to Glen Cranberry.

Sponsors who made the exhibit possible: Rockwell, Johnny Litton, Tita Trillo of La Vigne Bistro and Titania Wine Celllars, First Philippine Holdings and the Manila North Tollways Corporation.

Those interested in contributing to the restoration project and in getting Batanes added to Unesco's World Heritage list may e-mail bhfi_pi@yahoo.com.ph.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com

Family healing and second chances

TWO PEOPLE REKINDLE THEIR KINSHIP IN John Putch's "Where There's A Will," a story of family healing and second chances, telecast at 9 p.m. tomorrow on Hallmark Channel.

Leslie Clyde Onstatt (Marion Ross) is an aging widow with a fat bank account and a courtly admirer (Paul Michael). She seems to have everything she wants, but her deteriorating eyesight threatens her independent lifestyle.

ROSS AND MICHAEL. Play an aging widow and her courtly suitor in Hallmark's "Where There's A Will."

MONTAGE

Annie Clark (Christian Elise) is a county caregiver bent on finding someone to look after Leslie, so she looks for her only living relative, Richie Greene (Frank Whaley). Unfortunately, he turns out to be a con man on the run from an impatient loan shark (Dan Riordan).

As these characters interact, old secrets from a painful past are exposed.

Personal Discovery workshops

Discover new insights about yourself and learn how to ward off negative vibes at Da Seekers Cove (DSC) Personal Discovery Workshops.

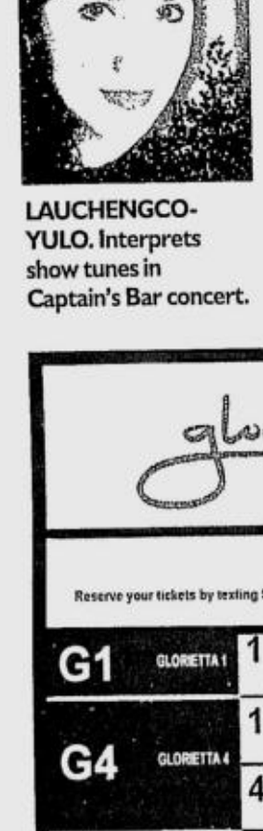
DSC has prepared fun and dynamic discussions and exercises related to Assertiveness (Sept. 16), Patterns of Relationships (Oct. 21), Coping with Stress (Nov. 18) and Letting Go and Moving Forward (Dec. 16). All sessions from 6 to 9 p.m. at DSC at the fourth level of Robinsons Galleria.

Da Seekers Cove is a counseling and training center owned by Shinette Garbanzos, a psychologist and HRD practitioner for over 30 years. DSC also offers tarot reading, dream insights and group encounter workshops. Call 637-1286, 0927 567-5611.

Asian Animé Special

When you put together Nickelodeon's animé Nicktoon, "Avatar: The Legend of Aang"

FAMILY/E5



LAUCHENGCO-YULO. Interprets show tunes in Captain's Bar concert.

SUMMER ISSUE

Making dreams come true through Sara Lee Direct Selling

Quality education for her children. Vacations at some of the world's most beautiful places. Financial stability. A better future for her family. These are the simple dreams of Terry Baylon, Mary Ann Agbones, Legarda Cayago, and Memia Dullas – ordinary women with extraordinary determination to succeed in a field that gives housewives like them the chance to spread their wings and make their dreams come true.

(Clockwise, from top left) Terry Baylon, Mary Ann Agbones, Legarda Cayago, and Memia Dullas have made their dreams a reality through Sara Lee Direct Selling.

Thanks to Sara Lee Direct Selling, they are now making their dreams a reality. They now run their own businesses and live a life full of income opportunities and amazing perks. They also hold the distinction of being four of the company's top independent business managers (IBMs).

Terry joined Sara Lee Direct Selling to earn more for her children's education. Now she is enjoying the generous fruits of her labor. "I was also able to build my own commercial building. Sara Lee Direct Selling helps you realize your dreams!"

For Mary Ann, four unrewarding years of working in government prompted her to stay at home and focus instead on direct selling. Today, she is one of the company's top earners and a consistent awardee. Beyond that, she considers the family trips abroad as the most exciting perk of the job. "My family and I had been to London, France, Germany, and Vienna. With Sara Lee Direct Selling, traveling the world is no longer just a dream! It's a fabulous reality!"

Legarda signed up with Sara Lee Direct Selling to sustain her family's needs. Now, she enjoys the financial success she only used to dream about. "I was able to build our dream house and buy properties. Truly, your dreams can come true with Sara Lee Direct Selling."

Memia worked as a maid to finish her studies, then spent 20 years in government service. She joined Sara Lee Direct Selling and realized she has been earning more than she had hoped for. "I can now send my children to good schools. Thanks to Sara Lee Direct Selling, my family and I no longer struggle to make ends meet."

Terry Baylon, Mary Ann Agbones, Legarda Cayago, and Memia Dullas have proven that dreams do come true. It only takes being a Sara Lee Direct Selling dealer to make these successful women live their dreams.

Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is the authorized distributor of prestigious brands that include Playtex, Hanes, Champion, Wonderbra, Just My Size, Girls' Attitudes, Colour Collection, Beauty Touch, Ivana, Georgie On Ice, VS Versus, Nutrimetics and Zwitsal. Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is also known as Fuller Cosmetics in Latin America and Nutrimetics in many parts of the world. If you have questions, need additional information or wish to become a dealer, call 859-3000, or send an email to customer_relation@saraleedirectselling.ph. You can also send inquiries through fax number 867-2279. You may also get in touch through text at 0921-9643367 or 0915-9823471

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 LITTLE MAN	2 SNAKES ON A PLANE	3 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS		
	4 THE LOST CITY	5 STAY ALIVE	6 YOU ARE THE ONE	7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA		2 YOU ARE THE ONE		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX YOU ARE THE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE LOST CITY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 CLICK GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LITTLE MAN GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX YOU ARE THE ONE		2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA		
	3 LITTLE MAN	4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	5 SNAKES ON A PLANE		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 MORTUARY	3 SNAKES ON A PLANE	4 LITTLE MAN	
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 YOU ARE THE ONE		2 SNAKES ON A PLANE		
	3 LITTLE MAN	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	5 STAY ALIVE		

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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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Sept. 2, Sat. 4pm

Pavilion Mall
Bridgeway Activity Ctr.
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Metro Point Mall
Activity Center
Sept. to Sept. 4pm

Ayala CINEMAS · MARKET! MARKET! · PAVILION mall · METRO POINT MALL

The 'Devil' becomes Meryl

By Noelani Torre

IF THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA, WHAT does an angel wear? According to David Frankel's film, the answer would be lumpy sweaters, dull plaid skirts and clunky brogues.

Tough, but then again, virtue—and not a yummy pair of Jimmy Choos—is supposed to be its own reward.

Equating the fashion industry with "the dark side," this comedy tells the tale of Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway), a frumpy and wide-eyed journalism grad who stumbles into a job as second assistant to fashion high priestess and Runway editor (that's Vogue spelled differently) Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep).

STREEP. Queen viper of the fashion world's snake pit.

Quintessential

The fashion industry is a snake pit and Andy's boss, it soon becomes clear, is the queen viper, the quintessential boss-from-hell. Good girl Andy refuses to be defeated, but she soon finds herself "crossing over into the dark side." Will she succumb to the lures of evil Chanel, or come back to the light?

When worded that way, you have to admit that it sounds downright silly. Nonetheless, the movie works—not because of that flimsy storyline—but in spite of it.

Based on the best-selling novel by Lauren Weisberger (who used to work for Vogue's famed editor, Anna Wintour), "The Devil Wears Prada" succeeds by giving us an insider's and an outsider's view into a world that most of us will no doubt hardly ever encounter beyond the glossy pages of a fashion magazine.

The center that this world revolves around—and consequently, the movie—is the terrifying Miranda Priestley, played to frosty perfection by the 13-time Oscar-nominated Streep.

With the barest twitch of an eyebrow and the softest of voices, Madame Streep dominates the screen—so much so that even though she plays the devil whom we're supposed to hate, you *don't* want her to leave the scene. When she's around, her co-stars tend to fade into the wallpaper.

Character

Anne Hathaway projects a luminous presence, but she's hampered by a role that hardly requires her to do anything more than react to Streep's character. And though the movie is ostensibly about her taking a walk into the dark side (pardon the mixed metaphor), her character remains too wholesome to be believable.

Though she has more screen time and is conventionally more eye-catching, Hathaway is overshadowed by British actress Emily Blunt, who plays Emily, Miranda's first assistant.

Moments

Bitchy and hostile, Emily nonetheless has her human—though not necessarily humane—moments, and elicits more laughs than the "good" Andy ever could.

Also turning in a good performance is Stanley Tucci as Nigel, Miranda's sort of second-in-command. Gay, but not over the top, and catty though not in a campy way, he adds interesting texture to his scenes with Hathaway's character.

'Idol' . . .

• From page E1

That isn't an enviable position for a talent competition to be in, that's for sure.

But, that's water under the bridge. The big show biz question now is: Which TV talent tilt has come up with the more promising batch of finalists? We caught both shows last weekend and came up with these comparative notes:

"Academy" has tapped "scholars" who are generally younger and more "international" in projection, with a Fil-Am, Fil-Aussie, Fil-Japanese and a beauty from the Netherlands among its 16 best bets.

On the other hand, "Idol" has come up with generally better singers. We listened to many of its top 40 bets singing solo, and all of the singers we heard sounded good.

We can't say the same for all of "Academy's" 16 top choices, some of whom may have been chosen for performing factors other than exceptional singing ability.

Astute choices

Thus, right now, "Idol" jurors Ryan Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales and Francis M can take a well-deserved bow for their astute choices. On the other hand, some of the "Academy" scholars still have to prove their worth in the next four months. Well, the ABS-CBN tilt's "school" format under "headmaster" Jim Paredes will make it easier for them to improve as performers in the weeks to come...

We note, too, that "Academy's" finalists are more varied in terms of the character types they "represent." Was this "textured" configuration intentionally arrived at?

Aside from the "international" representation, "Academy's" scholars also include an OCW, a Grace Nono "ethnic" wannabe, more rockers than usual, some real lookers from the Netherlands and Australia, a "plus-plus-sizer," etc.!

This varied casting is reminiscent of ABS-CBN's past "Pinoy Big Brother" reality shows, which also featured very mixed "housemates"—the better to sustain viewers' interest and to give niche audiences different types to empathize with, and root and vote for?

Emphasis

On the other hand, "Idol's" 24 finalists were generally more homogenized in terms of looks and emphasis on exceptional singing ability.

Yes, the ABC-5 tilt does have a resident gender bender, but that's about it in terms of exotica, and there's no preferential treatment obvious here in terms of "textured" casting, because the singer in question is clearly a superior performer.

This weekend, "Idol" will whittle down its 24 finalists to its Magic 12. For its part, "Academy" added four more to the 16 who were announced at the end of its Cebu show. The plot thickens!

PAREDES. His talent show's contestants are generally young and more "international" in projection.

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CINEMA 5 — THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 11:35 , 2:20 , 5:05 7:50 , 10:35 PG-13
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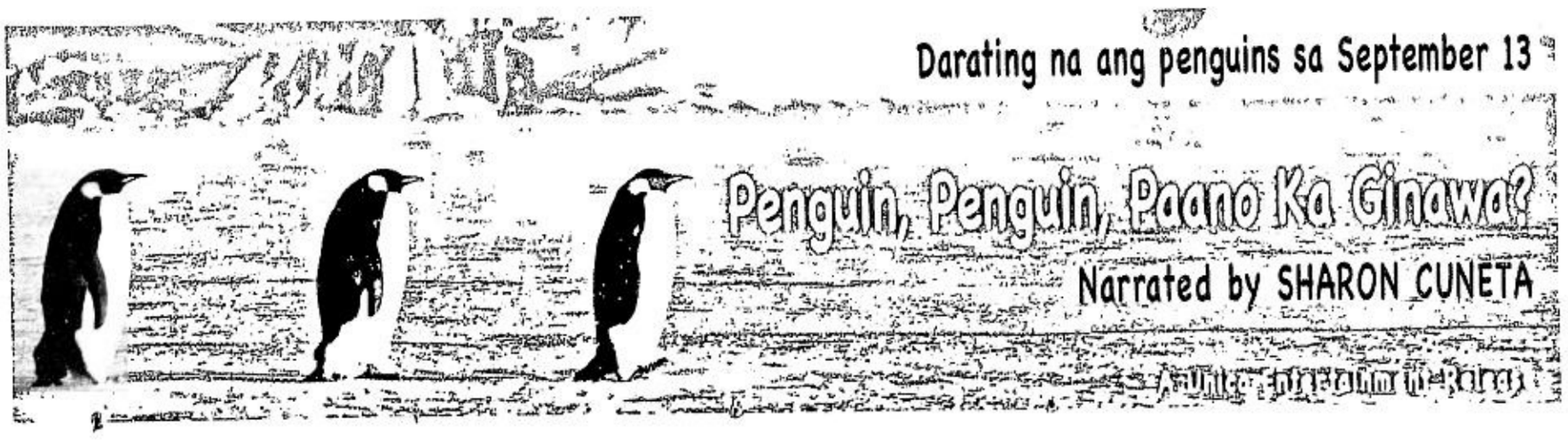


Family healing...

From page E3

and the new series, "Kappa Mikey," you get Asian Animé Special—at 9 a.m. every Saturday (with repeats at 4 p.m. on Sundays and Fridays), starting today.

"Kappa Mikey" showcases the adventures of Mikey Simon, a struggling actor who suddenly wins a role on "Lily Mu,". Japan's top-rated animé show. Catch it at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 2.

MING-MING Duckling stars in Nickelodeon's "Wonder Pets."

Starting at 7 tonight, watch out for new episodes of "All That!" And, at 8:30 and 11 a.m. every Thursday and Friday starting Sept. 7, "Wonder Pets" features the travels and adventures of Linny the Guinea Pig, Ming-Ming Duckling and Turtle Tuck as they save animals in trouble!

Easy English seminars

Corban Communications is slating a new series of Easy English seminars starting today, tomorrow and on Sept. 9 and 10 from 2 to 5 p.m., for students, housewives and professionals.

The comprehensive package of conversation, grammar, listening and writing runs for 30 hours. Corban also does tutorials, ielts, Upcat reviews and corporate seminars. Call 842-6665, 809-3050 or 0917 629-7718.

'Girls Gone Wild'

"Girls Gone Wild," the most popular video series in the United States, is now available locally. The titillating series captures beautiful and adventurous young women going naughty and wild in festive settings like Spring Break and Mardi Gras, and on college campuses. "Girls Gone Wild" features real-life situations, and was created by Joe Francis.

Manila International Book Fair

The 27th Manila International Book Fair is ongoing until tomorrow (10a.m. to 8 p.m.) at the World Trade Center, Pasay City. Organized by Primetrade Asia, the event showcases multi-media products, new titles, rare finds, exhibits, seminars, promos and symposia.

'One Enchanted Evening'

Best-loved songs from musical theater are featured in "One Enchanted Evening" on Sept. 18 at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Hotel. The show tunes will be interpreted by Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Jeff Arcilla, EJ Villacorta, Rycharde Everley, Jaime del Mundo and Benjie Dia. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m. and showtime is at 8 p.m. Call 0917 526-1467.

'Joseph the Dreamer'

The hit biblical musical, "Joseph the Dreamer," has been rewritten for a young audience, and is being staged by Trumpets at SM Megamall Cinema 2 weekends starting today until Sept. 30.

The musical is more compact, has a newer sound, a more MTV feel, and a younger cast led by Franco Laurel and Alvin dela Peña alternating as Joseph. Freddie Santos directs. Call 635-4478 or 636-2842.

'Sitak'

Liza Cornejo's "Sitak" is now on VCD "digi-art" .video. The film, which dramatizes the emotional journey of a corporate man turned taxi driver, stars Gerry Cornejo, Chanda Romero, Lou Veloso, Reno Romero and Jam Rodriguez. Call 415-2272, local 3621.

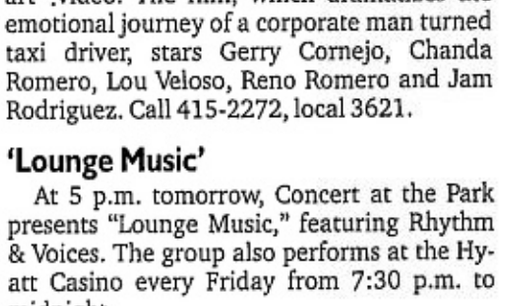
'Lounge Music'

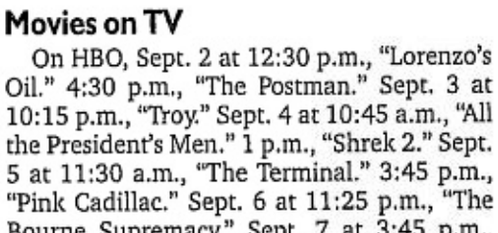
At 5 p.m. tomorrow, Concert at the Park presents "Lounge Music," featuring Rhythm & Voices. The group also performs at the Hyatt Casino every Friday from 7:30 p.m. to midnight.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Sept. 2 at 12:30 p.m., "Lorenzo's Oil." 4:30 p.m., "The Postman." Sept. 3 at 10:15 p.m., "Troy." Sept. 4 at 10:45 a.m., "All the President's Men." 1 p.m., "Shrek 2." Sept. 5 at 11:30 a.m., "The Terminal." 3:45 p.m., "Pink Cadillac." Sept. 6 at 11:25 p.m., "The Bourne Supremacy." Sept. 7 at 3:45 p.m., "Love at First Bite." Sept. 8 at 4:15 p.m., "The Brooke Ellison Story."

On Cinemax, Sept. 2 at 9 p.m., "The Italian Job." Sept. 3 at 6:55 p.m., "Batman." Sept. 4 at 6 a.m, "Shane." Sept. 5 at 3 p.m., "From Here to Eternity." Sept. 6 at 4:15 p.m., "Lone Star." Sept. 7 at 5:50 p.m., "The Blues Brothers." Sept. 8 at 3:05 p.m., "Arabesque."





LAUREL. Plays title role in latest staging of "Joseph the Dreamer."

Theater at its best from Peta and NVC

By Nestor U. Torre

THE LOCAL THEATER SCENE IS perking up with new productions that involve, delight and challenge viewers to arrive at a more felt and insightful view of life. So, if you're a couch potato, get off your butt or potato patch and give your artistic and cultural side the care and feeding it needs.

Mordant view

Last Sunday, we went to Peta's new theater on Sunnyside Drive in Quezon City (725-6244) to catch its current play (until Sept. 3), "Walang Himala." The production directed by Maribel Legarda is a multi-media show that shares a mordant view of the Filipino 20 years after the People Power Revolution at Edsa.

The production is a valuable one for many viewers, especially for young people born after 1986. It shares its insights through six short stories, set both here and abroad, that show the Everyman Filipino hero as a work in progress, both courageous and timorous, hopeful and despairing.

Versatile

The show is greatly enlivened by the performances of its versatile and committed actors, led by the luminous Joy Soler de Castro.

DE CASTRO. Luminous.

Talk about versatility, Joy plays three radically different women in "Walang Himala"—including an activist *balikbayan* from China, a ditzy trainor, and a Fil-Am career woman who can't understand why the man she loves wants to go back to the Philippines.

Over at the New Voice Company, the new production is Eve Ensler's "The Good Body," set to be performed at Music Museum on Nov. 11 and 12. The talented cast is led by Pinky Amador.

Ensler is the company's favorite playwright, since "The Vagina Monologues" enabled NVC to score important thematic and thespic points all over the Philippines and around Asia.

AMADOR. Topbills "The Good Body."

Directing "The Good Body" is NVC's Associate Artistic Director Rito Asilo, who has received critical acclaim for past season productions like "The Vagina Monologues," "Sacrilege," "Stones in His Pockets" and "Cabaret," which he co-directed with Monique Wilson.

Tortured relationship

"The Good Body" talks about women's tortured relationships with their weight, body image and self-acceptance, with voices from LA to Kabul:

A young Latina candidly critiques her humiliating "spread"—a stubborn layer of fat that she calls "a second pair of thighs."

The wife of a plastic surgeon recounts being systematically reconstructed, inch by inch, by her perfectionist husband.

An aging magazine executive, still haunted by her mother's criticism, describes her desperate pursuit of youth as she relentlessly does sit-ups.

Along the way, Ensler also introduces viewers to women who have found hard-won peace with their bodies: An African mother who celebrates each individual body as a sign of nature's diversity, an Indian woman who delights in her curves, and a veiled Afghani woman who's willing to risk imprisonment for a taste of ice cream.

Inspiring stories

These are just a few of the inspiring stories woven through Eve's global journey from obsession to enlightenment. Ultimately, these monologues are a personal wake-up call for viewers to love the "good bodies" they inhabit.

As Newsday raves, "This good humored, uplifting show is not merely a hoot—it is an inspiration!" For corporate and performance sponsorship and group/school tickets, call 896-6695. Email nvc@pldtsl.net, or visit www.newvoicecompany.com.

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5 SUKOB
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7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 JUPIT
10 STAY ALIVE
11 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
12 LITTLE MAN

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
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6 LITTLE MAN
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10 YOU ARE THE ONE
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12 MIAMI VICE

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1 JUPIT
2 CLICK
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 LITTLE MAN
6 SUKOB
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 MORTUARY
11 OH MY GHOST
12 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 STAY ALIVE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 CLICK
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 JUPIT
9 SUKOB
10 MORTUARY

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 JUPIT
5 LITTLE MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 STAY ALIVE
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 LITTLE MAN
8 CLICK
9 JUPIT

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 JUPIT
2 STAY ALIVE
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 LITTLE MAN
9 SUKOB
10 MORTUARY
11 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12 YOU ARE THE ONE

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1 MORTUARY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
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2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 SUKOB
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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3 AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
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1 LITTLE MAN
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 UNITED 93
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
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3 STORMBREAKER
4 CLICK
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6 JUPIT

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3 LITTLE MAN
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 JUPIT
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
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3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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1 LITTLE MAN
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

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SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 MORTUARY
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 JUPIT/ SUKOB
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 LITTLE MAN
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2 RESERVED
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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5 CLICK
6 LITTLE MAN
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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2 JUPIT
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MORTUARY
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ
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2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

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GARLAND had Ethel Merman's lungs, Mary Martin's rhythm, and Billie Holiday's soul.

Judy Garland proves that mites are truly mighty

By Behn Cervantes

AFTER WRITING ABOUT SHORT BUT SUPER-TALENTED ACTORS last week, I was sure I would get reactions from fans of other "vertically-challenged" celebrities: Why did I fail to point out Tinseltown's other mighty mites? Specifically, *their* respective favorites, of course!

Sure enough, I received a text message informing me that "Judy (Garland) was only 4'11". The texter did not give Judy's last name—Garland—because she knew I was aware that she was a die-hard fan. She has given me regular updates about the legendary star's biographical data through the years.

Inseparable pair

Of course, she was right: How could I possibly mention Mickey Rooney and forget Judy? They were an inseparable pair, after all, because before *La* Garland went on to great musical and dramatic heights on her own, she was Andy Hardy's sweet singing-dancing girlfriend on the MGM lot.

Sure, Rooney had other love interests—like Joan Leslie and Esther Williams—but, it was girl-next-door Judy who captured the imagination of Andy's fans. The pair was like ham and eggs, or peanut butter and jam. And because tiny Mickey was barely 5'3", he looked just right beside 4'11' Judy. Together, the dynamic duo charmed everyone with their songs and dances. Who could ask for more?

Judy was, indeed, tiny, small-boned and frail—the secrets to her charm! She had vulnerability—but, boy, how she dished out those songs! She had the lungs of Ethel Merman, the rhythm of Mary Martin, and the soul of Billie Holiday.

Energy

She had energy—she could dance and keep up with Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. Most of all, she had talent! Not only could Judy sing and dance with the best of them, she could act, as well!

In fact, everyone was sure she was going to grab an Oscar for her unforgettable turn in "A Star is Born." However, a glamorous heiress from Philadelphia by the name of Grace

JUDY/ E7

SHANG CINEPLEX

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12 40, 3 00, 5.20, 7:40, 10 00

2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB PG-13
12 00, 2 30, 5 00, 7 30, 10 00

3 YOU ARE THE ONE
MTRCB PG-13
12 05, 2.30, 4.55, 7:20, 9:45

4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
MTRCB PG-13
1 00 3 15, 5 30 7.45 10.0

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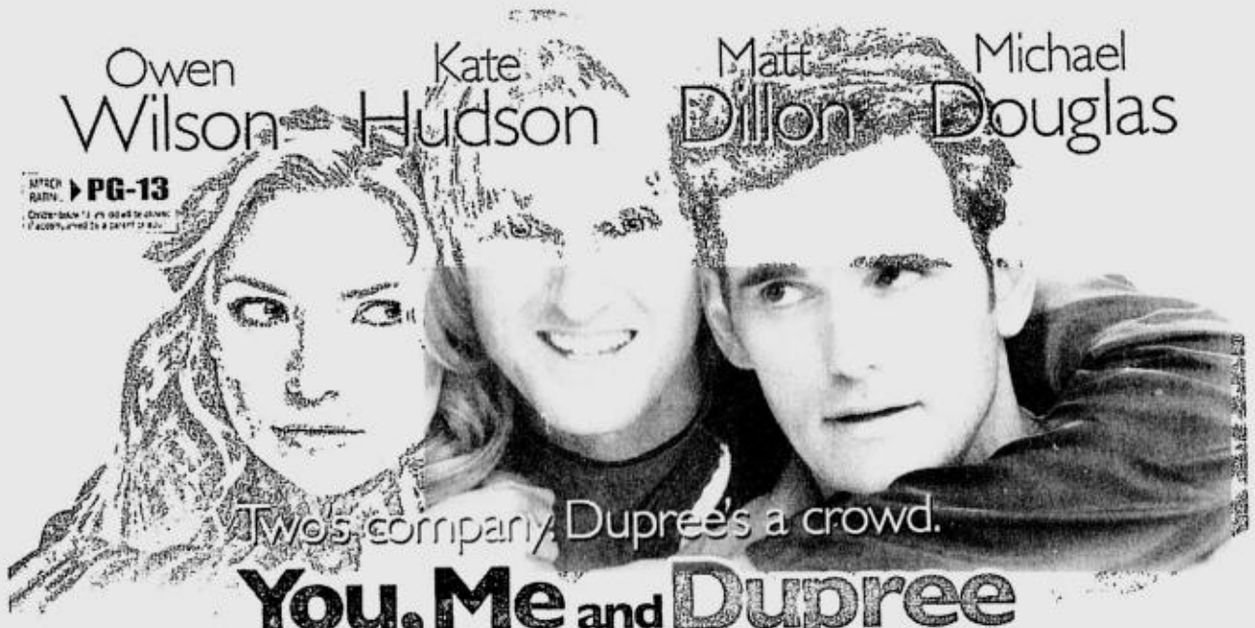

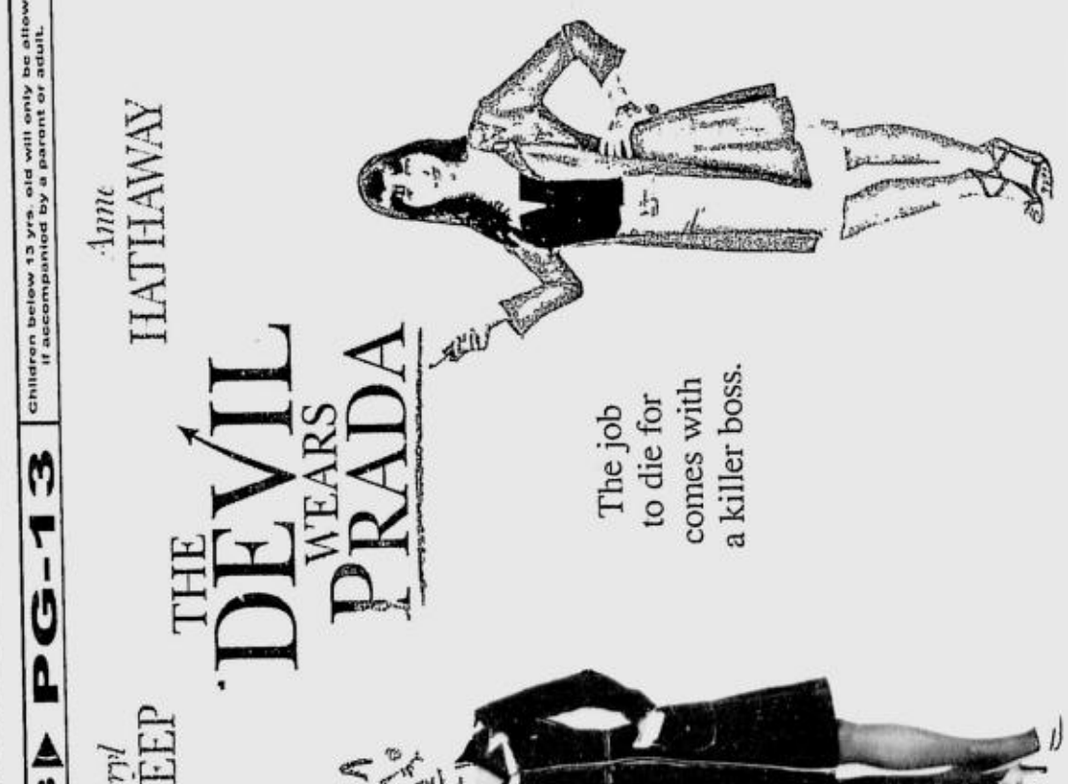

James Bond . . .

From page E2

acting ability consists mostly of scrunching his Greek-god brow and gazing intently into the distance. He doesn't have the charm and humor of Frankie Muniz ("Agent Cody Banks") that made that other young actor's foray into spy-dom more enjoyable to watch.

ROURKE. Plays computer mogul in "Stormbreaker."

Caricature

The rest of the actors are all flat, caricature types—which would not have been a problem if the film had just been the teeniest bit self-mockingly funny *a la* "Johnny English."

The movie is supposed to bring in a new British franchise like "Harry Potter," but it looks like it's going to be sounding a death knell, instead.

Judy Garland . . .

From page E6

Kelly ("A Country Girl") went home with the golden statuette, instead.

To this day, decades after her death, Garland's performance in the film continues to be enjoyed by new generations of fans, while Kelly's victory is widely considered a fluke.

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YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND R13 1:05,3:10,5:15, 7:20,9:25	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:05,3:25,5:45,8:05,10:30

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1 LITTLE MAN 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
3 YOU ARE THE ONE 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 10:00 PG-13
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1 CLICK • THX 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 12:50 3.05 5.20 7:35
2 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	7 LITTLE MAN 1:10 3:20 5 30 7:40 9:50
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE 1.00 3:15 5.30 7:45 10.00	8 THE BIG WHITE 12:40 3.00 5:20 7:40
4 STAY ALIVE 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45	9 RESERVED
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	10 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 1:10 3:20 5:30 7.40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 YOU ARE THE MAN 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	
2 STAY ALIVE 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00	5 LITTLE MAN 12:10 2:10 4:05 6:05 8.00 9:50
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12.30 2.50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 12:00 2:00 4:00 6.00 8:00 10:00
4 SNAKE SON A PLANE 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50	7 CLICK 12:10 2:10 4:05 6:05 8:05 10:00

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1 TAMARA 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9 00	5 CLICK 12.40 2:45 4:50 6.55 9:00
2 SUKOB 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 12:40 2 45 4:50 6.55 9 00
3 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:10	7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 11:05 1:35 4:05 6 35 9:05
4 LITTLE MAN 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00	8 SNAKES ON A PLANE 11:50 2:10 4:30 6 50 9:10

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1 SNAKES ON A PLANE	3 LITTLE MAN
2 YOU ARE THE ONE	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE	3 LITTLE MAN
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5 FIERCE PEOPLE	
6 CLICK	

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3 YOUR AR THE ONE
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5 (DOLBY DIGITAL) YOUR AR THE ONE
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7 (DOLBY SRND) SNAKES ON A PLANE
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1 (SDDS) BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
3 KATAWAN KO ANG LANGIT
4 (DTS) AMERICAN HAUNTING

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2 S. P. L.
3 (DTS) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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3 WHORE
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2 MASAKIT WAG IPILIT

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The gourmet flavors of goose liver and mushrooms at the Tivoli

THE WONDROUS TANDEM OF TWO OF Europe's finest culinary treasures - goose liver and mushrooms, make a divine comeback at Mandarin Oriental's signature fine-dining restaurant The Tivoli on Sept. 5 to 18. Exquisite haute cuisine creations as presented by The Tivoli's master chefs beckon for lunch, Monday to Friday and dinner, daily, in an a la carte menu.

The two-week food promotion features glorious creations using the best goose liver imported from France and the freshest mushrooms available. Indulge in the delectable and sensual selection of well-loved gourmet preparations as created by The Tivoli chef Stefan Trepp, from mouthwatering appetizers and soups, hearty salads, to intensely flavoured entrees, which include among others: Truffle-infused braised duck terrine on goose liver sabayon; Millionaire's salad with pan-fried goose liver and sautéed chanterelles; Cream of foie gras with trumpet mushroom powder; Traditional beef tenderloin "Rossini" on grilled Portobello mushroom with sautéed spinach and mushroom espuma, and Pan-fried pigeon breast on sweetbread bean stew and cepe mushrooms and duck liver moussline.

Foie Gras -- a French speciality, is made of the enlarged liver of a goose or duck that has been force-fed and fattened over a period of four to five months. It first reached the height of popularity in Strasbourg towards the end of the 18th century, when a chef named Jean Pierre Clause prepared a dish using goose liver, which caught the attention of King Louis XVI. This gastronomic treat is soaked overnight in milk, water or port, and then marinated in a mixture of Armagnac, Port or Madeira and other seasonings. The best foie gras, which has a rosy colour with blotches of beige, is firm and comes from the Dordogne area of South West France.

The word mushroom, first recorded in the early fifteenth century was borrowed from the Old French mousseron. The most popular varieties of mushrooms include: Chanterelles which range from yellow to orange in color with a fruity apricot flavour, naturally blend well with chicken, rabbit, veal, quail and pheasant; Morels are dark in color and are commonly combined with chicken and rice; and, White truffles blessed with smooth yellow skin are sublime in taste when served with risotto and are equally enticing when simply seasoned with olive oil, salt, and pepper.

THE Tivoli chef Stefan Trepp

A splendid selection of red and white French, Californian and Australian house wines are also being offered by the glass to enhance one's dining experience. For enquiries and reservations, call The Tivoli at 750 8888 extension 2431 to 2433.

Dusit Hotel presents 'Spice of Life'

SUSTAINING YOUR APPETITE FOR SOULFUL cuisine is likely to be satisfied as Dusit Hotel Nikko's specialty restaurants showcase gastronomy that transcends the ordinary and create food that adds spice to life.

Journey across Thailand's culinary heritage with scorching recipes passed on through generations to preserve the Thai's royal culinary legacy. Highly praised chef Tun, of Dusit Hotel Nikko's Benjarong Royal Thai restaurant, was able to master and embrace this rich tradition and shares this to you through her a la carte creations for September.

This month of September, chef Nguyen of Thien Duong Vietnamese restaurant has whipped up special seafood and meat barbecue meals to suit your discriminating taste.

True to Fiesta San Miguel's flare for fine Filipino cuisine, the 'tilapia' takes center stage this September as the restaurant's seasoned chefs whip up interestingly appetizing preparations to whet your appetites.

The 'matsutake' highlight Benkay's culinary offerings for the month of September at Dusit Hotel Nikko. Its abundance sends forth inspiration as chef Tomiyama creates various ways of preparing delicate cuisine using this Japanese mushroom as main ingredient.

Step into gastronomic paradise with The Café's daily thematic buffet offerings giving you a taste of the best cuisine of the East and West.

The Hotel's Deli Shop becomes your one stop shop for the freshest breads, tempting cakes, pralines and fabulous gourmet sandwiches.

Meanwhile, their award-wining pastry chefs have created special confectionery delights - the divine 'White Choco Chestnut' cheesecake offered this month of September. Take home these sweet indulgences for only P820 nett for a whole cake and P95 nett for a slice.

The month of September calls for a smooth drink of 'Pink Nirvana' - an invigorating blend of strawberry yogurt, orange juice, calamansi juice, simple syrup, hint of vodka and a dash of grenadine syrup. Unleash your inner vitality with the soothing blend of 'Pink Nirvana.' Available in all outlets.

Go ahead... have a bite, and take pleasure in the "Spice of Life." For inquiries, call 867-3333.

People, Events & Products

Doing business in India - The Right Way

INDIA HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS ONE of the most exciting emerging markets in the world. Forbes magazine described India as having "a very strong potential to be the next great bull market of the 21st century... and may be a better investment opportunity than China (in the long term)." It is the second most-populous country in the world with a population of over 1 billion people. India has the second largest English-speaking scientific, technical and executive resource for manpower in the world, making it easy for foreign businessmen to do business there. As the world's fourth-largest economy, India has a large consumer market and a growing middle class of more than 300 million people. Labor cost is among the cheapest in the world; at the same time, India offers a large pool of skilled managerial and technical expertise.

Economic reforms that were undertaken by the Indian government in the 1990s have opened up the market, making way for numerous investor-friendly policies that have attracted many global companies to set up operations there. The process of doing business has been simplified to ensure more efficient business transactions. Laws have been amended to open up several sectors to foreign investors. The government has also done a lot of infrastructure development to support economic growth.

In light of these reforms and continued economic growth, opportunities abound for those who want to do business in India, especially in sectors like manufacturing, trading, pharmaceuticals, urban development, auto components, animal feeds, iron and steel, milk, IT, financial services, chemicals, apparel, and jewelry.

To help businessmen and organizations know more about how to maximize opportunities in India, the Center for Global Best Practices (842-7148 and 59 and www.cgbp.org), in collaboration with the Embassy of India, the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Trade and Industry, will be holding a seminar on "Doing Business in India - The Right Way" on Friday, Sept. 29, at The Peninsula Manila, Makati City. This 1-day seminar will enable participants to gain working knowledge of India's investment environment and the legal, accounting and tax frameworks involved, as well as gain insight into how to collaborate and partner with Indian companies and entrepreneurs. Participants will gain firsthand information from experts who have extensive and diverse backgrounds in managing businesses in India. Speakers include the following: Vikesh Mehta, senior partner of Grant Thornton India; Nandu Nandkishore, president and CEO of Nestlé, Philippines; S.H. Venkataraman, country manager of Indian Immunologicals Ltd; Varun Berry, country manager of PepsiCo Inc; Sanjiv Vohra, chief country officer of Citibank; and Sangram Mohanty, corporate communications director of Global Steel. As a follow-up to this seminar, a business delegation from the Philippines will visit 4 cities in India (Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Madras) for opportunity-seeking and business matching activities

The Real Bank: Serving the Filipino worker with new products for 2006

FOCUSING ITS MARKET BASE TO the diligent Filipino worker, the Real Bank lives up to its commitment of "Upholding Filipino Values. Supporting the Filipino Dreams." by directing its major improvement and development plans towards providing banking products and services that will specifically cater to the needs of the Filipino workers.

For one, The Real Bank launches, on its 30th year, the Real Deal. An auto financing program that aims to provide affordable auto loan or financing packages at reasonable costs. The Real Earner, introduced also in 2006, is designed as an ideal start-up term placement for the Filipino professional aspiring to learn and appreciate basic investment principles that produces, with very low risks, competitive yields. A special and competitive term deposit interest rate is given to clients who open a Real Earner account with a minimum of only P50,000.00. This deposit account is perfect for those who want to get the best earnings out of hard-earned money saved over years of working. The Real CASH "Tulong sa Kabataan" is an ATM account that aims to imbibe among account holders the spirit of patriotism and encourages them to actively participate in nation-building by being a partner of the Bank in its savings advocacy campaign.

These new products are only initial steps taken by the Bank to establish its direction towards upholding Filipino values and supporting Filipino dreams.

Precious Quigaman: A champion for life

TO BE A CHAMPION FOR LIFE ENTAILS SO MUCH FROM SOMEBODY. Strong, unwavering in keeping his or her values, humble, smart, brave enough to take on and learn from challenges are just some of the qualities that define a champion-qualities that are best exemplified by 2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman. Bright, educated and certainly destined to become a champion, Lara epitomizes the new breed of Filipinos who are grounded on their values, selfless, driven to excel and are competent and passionate in what they do. "I'm thrilled to be working with Centrum because we both share a passion for bringing out the best in everybody," says Lara. "Centrum brings out the best in our health because it offers a complete range of vitamins that we need and I on the other hand, always hope to bring out the best in everyone, show them that there's so much more to be happy and hope for out there," enthuses Lara. "Receiving this award is surely a great way to validate all of my efforts," says Lara. "I feel so honored and humbled at the same time to receive such a distinction. I share this with my family, my friends and to all the other people who have touched me in so many ways, especially the children." Indeed, Lara seems to be living a complete life, one that isn't merely revolving in the trappings of fame and fortune. Instead, a complete life for her is being able to do more in life, like giving something back. "When you have attained success, always remember to go back and help those who aren't as privileged as you are," says Lara. Only then can you get a sense of what's it like to really be a complete champion for life

MCPHEE. Sounds even better on record.

CARRICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

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Editor: Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor: Rito P. Asilo

'AMERICAN IDOL, SEASON 5: ENCORES'

Standout covers, sparkling voices

HICKS. Rollicking version of "Takin' It to the Streets."

CARRICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Rito P. Asilo

"AMERICAN IDOL, SEASON 5: ENCORES" MAY well be the talent search's best commemorative album so far. Unlike installments from previous seasons, which included underwhelming covers and uninspired tunes, the latest compilation features a heterogeneous blend that doesn't merely showcase the singing tilt contestants' vocal quality, but also puts to good use their unique traits.

The key, of course, is originality, which is always hard to find in a lineup of revivals. A covers-heavy track listing always wears out its welcome after a couple of spins in the CD player—but, not in *this* case.

Comparison

Take Taylor Hicks, Season 5's big winner: His voice is a cross between Joe Cocker and Michael McDonald—but, the comparison stops there. The similarity ends when Hicks' performing savvy takes over, as he deftly demonstrates in his rollicking version of "Takin' It to the Streets." To say the least, this white guy has soul—loads of it!

He makes over the funky tune as a snappy, strutting number, and infuses its infectious groove with an unthreatening dollop of attitude and wide-eyed optimism. Of course, only time will tell if his career path will follow Kelly Clarkson's stellar, trailblazing route or Ruben Studdard's 15—alright, 30—seconds of fame.

For her part, runner-up Katharine McPhee sounds even better on record. In her cover of "Think," the youngster comes up with a rousing rendition that makes her sound more mature than her 21 years—and, yes, black. Aretha Franklin would be impressed.

The challenge lies in the interpretation: How do you come up with fresh, unconventional versions that don't sound inferior beside Whitney Houston and Chaka Khan's recordings of "I'm Every Woman," or Nat King Cole and Rick Astley's covers of "When I Fall in Love"? If you don't sound different from—or better than—the original or popular version, what's the point of rerecording it?

Sassy spin

As they say: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Well, Kevin Covais, who sings "When I Fall in Love" with reverential flatness, should have left the timeless classic alone. Mandisa's "I'm Every Woman," on the other hand, may have a familiar arrangement, but the talented singer gives the song her own sassy spin that will have you grooving to it a few seconds after she opens her mouth.

Third placer Elliot Yamin and heartthrob Ace Young sound generic in their respective versions of George Benson's "Moody's Mood" and George Michael's "Father Figure." But, they nonetheless give justice to the hard-to-sing blues-and-jazz ditties, especially Yamin.

Among vocally challenging contemporary jazz songs with a high degree of difficulty, "Moody's Mood" ranks up there with The Manhattan Transfer's "The Shaker Song" and Al Jarreau's "Take Five," and Chick Correa's "Spain (I Can Recall)."

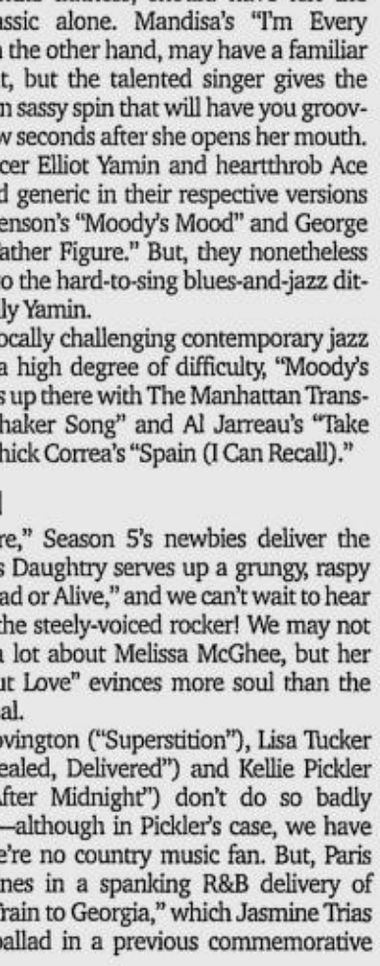
More soul

In "Encore," Season 5's newbies deliver the goods: Chris Daughtry serves up a grungy, raspy "Wanted Dead or Alive," and we can't wait to hear more from the steely-voiced rocker! We may not remember a lot about Melissa McGhee, but her "What About Love" evinces more soul than the Heart original.

Bucky Covington ("Superstition"), Lisa Tucker ("Signed, Sealed, Delivered") and Kellie Pickler ("Walkin' After Midnight") don't do so badly themselves—although in Pickler's case, we have to admit we're no country music fan. But, Paris Bennett shines in a spanking R&B delivery of "Midnight Train to Georgia," which Jasmine Trias sang as a ballad in a previous commemorative collection.

A covers album is always tricky: Its familiar songs make it commercially viable instantly, but those hit tunes don't always guarantee top quality.

A performer has to transcend a familiar track's generic sound—otherwise, he can always take the conventional, predictable route and shriek his shrilly way around a popular ditty's belting-friendly licks to win over the impressionable, record-buying demographic. After all, in this age of Internet file-sharing and record-piracy, sales and commercial appeal are always given more weight than genuine talent.



YAMIN. His version of "Moody's Mood" sounds generic.

CARRICATURE BY LA MISTADES

Operation Blessing Marks a Decade of Caring!

Operation Blessing Foundation Philippines (OB), CBN Asia's humanitarian arm, was established in 1996 for the purpose of reaching out to the most neglected and economically disadvantaged people groups in the Philippines and the rest of Asia.

When it first began operations in 1996, it only had a handful of regular volunteers. But ten years since, God has poured out so much blessing, that OB now has a regular staff, and thousands of medical and non-medical volunteers who have offered their services for free in hundreds of OB missions mostly to the remotest villages in the country.

In the last decade, Operation Blessing has launched more than 700 medical missions, disaster relief operations, child feeding and education programs, community feeding initiatives, and other types of outreaches that have benefited over a million needy and distressed individuals, some of whom were prison inmates, orphans and the elderly.

OB's "Bless-a-Child" daily feeding and education program has brought health and life back to more than 700 malnourished children, including scavenger kids in the infamous Payatas garbage dump in Quezon City. Its "Back-to-School" program has provided scholarships to 262 indigent children. Still, others have been given free reconstructive surgery for cleft lips and palates and burns, and hydrocephalic, cataract and orthopedic surgery.

Livelihood and Skills Training

An advocate of empowerment, OB has provided livelihood training to thousands of individuals, including former garbage scavengers, rebel returnees and former drug addicts, to help them become productive members of society. Beneficiaries have acquired skills in hydroponics, refrigerator repair, handicraft making, and other means of livelihood. OB's Mobile Out-of-School Training Program (MOST), launched in 2005, has enabled over a hundred displaced individuals become productive, self-reliant members of the community.

Operation Blessing has also built 150 potable water wells in waterless villages. To further address sanitation needs, OB has likewise constructed toilets and bathrooms in villages where no such facilities exist. Remote communities have been given access to medicines through OB's "Botica Binhi" program.

Kids excitedly line up to get a drink from a newly drilled well from Operation Blessing.

Braving War Zones

Committed to building bridges of love and peace, Operation Blessing braved the perilous trails of Mindanao to reach out to our Muslim brothers in rebel-infested, poverty-stricken areas of Basilan, Sulu, Marawi, Maguindanao, Lanao and Tawi-Tawi, and in other critical areas outside of Mindanao. For its demonstration of courage and dedication, OB was recognized by the Armed Forces of the Philippines as "NGO of the Year for Peace Efforts" on two consecutive years, 2002 and 2003.

Gordon Robertson, vice president of CBN WorldReach Asia and founder of Operation Blessing Philippines, hands out relief goods to victims of the 2000 Payatas trashslide.

Quick Relief Response

The widening sphere of OB's missions of hope is owed to vital partnerships with the military, local governments, and Christian churches and ministries. During OB's most massive disaster relief effort to typhoon ravaged Aurora and Quezon provinces in 2004, teams traveled by military helicopter or Navy boat, carrying relief goods which reached 35,000 starving families. Operation Blessing also rushed to the aid of mudslide survivors in Southern Leyte to provide relief packs and crisis counseling. Most recently, an OB team responded to thousands of villagers forced to evacuate their homes due to an impending Mount Mayon eruption in Legazpi City, Albay.

Aside from emergency aid, OB has also helped rebuild devastated communities through the reconstruction of houses and the provision of livelihood support.

Reaching Across Asia

Distance and danger are never a hindrance for Operation Blessing, as it has gone to the hinterlands of Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, China, India, and even war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan. In January and March 2005, OB played a critical role in disaster relief efforts to tsunami victims in Aceh, Indonesia, the area that suffered the greatest devastation from the worst natural disaster in modern history.

In the next 10 years, OB Chief Operating Officer Dr. Kim Pascual looks forward to continue rebuilding the nation · one family, one community at a time. "We want to rebuild devastated villages from the ground up into model communities. Imagine if we could do this all over the country," she relates. As Operation Blessing has learned in the past decade, all things are possible when more people dare to care, share and believe. To support OB's various humanitarian outreaches, you may call 817-6520 or 812-0581.

It is the caring touch of OB medical volunteers that truly warms the hearts of the people.

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"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

OB's Thanksgiving Celebration

It was a night of reminiscing and thanksgiving as Operation Blessing (OB) marked its 10th year in the business of caring and service through an anniversary dinner celebration recently held at the ballroom of the Makati Sports Club. The event was a gathering of old friends, long-time supporters, volunteers, partners and other special people who have been a part of the foundation's decade of touching lives.

Through the years, it is undoubtedly the support of faithful partners and volunteers that has enabled OB to achieve

Operation Blessing (OB) EVP and COO Dr. Kim April Pascual, M.D. (left) speaks during the anniversary celebration. With her is OB President Peter Kairuz.

all that it has. Now on its 10th year, the anniversary celebration is OB's way of honoring and thanking everyone who has been a part of the foundation's unwavering commitment of serving the neediest people.

The event was highlighted by song numbers performed by singer-theater actress Pam G. and special guest Gary Valenciano, who himself was part of an OB mission in the wake of the Payatas trashslide in 2000.

An exhibit was set up at the venue featuring memorable photos from various OB outreaches dating back to the 90's. The following are ten selected program beneficiaries representing each year of OB's decade:

JF Francisco. Eight-year-old JF was born with a club right foot, impeding his mobility and making wearing a pair of shoes difficult for him. Often, he would be seen with only one slipper on, thus becoming an object of ridicule by other kids. Thanks to Operation Blessing and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, JF was given free corrective surgery last March at the Philippine Air Force General Hospital. JF is now awaiting full recovery and will soon be able to walk and live normally.

Chris Sta. Ana. Eleven-year-old Chris imagines himself as an artist someday, but a severe and worsening cataract condition on both his eyes had crushed his dream. Although he could hardly see, Chris would spend hours drawing on his sketch pad or molding small animals and action figures from clay. Through a partnership among the Asian Eye Institute, the Ophthalmological Foundation of the Philippines and Operation Blessing, Chris was given free eye surgery. Now, he is able to see his dream of becoming an artist clearly again.

Joelan Pinca. Drug addict, holdupper, robbery gang member, shabu pusher and womanizer... This was the life that Joelan lived before Operation Blessing came and gave him a chance to have a decent one. OB enrolled Joelan in a short course on air conditioner and refrigerator repair through its Mobile Out-of-School Training program, which he finished by topping his class. Joelan has turned away from his old life and now earns an honest living for his family.

Oliver Abulag. Oliver was born with a cleft lip and palate. His parents have long hoped to seek medical help for their son, but extreme poverty prevented them from doing so. In May 2005, as Oliver struggled to live a normal life because of his condition, Operation Blessing came and provided him with free corrective surgery. Oliver can now look forward to a bright future with a smile.

Emily Yap. Emily didn't always radiate joy, peace and inner calm. Some years back, she was a picture of misery. She, her husband Edgar and their five kids struggled to survive and would often go for days without food. But all these changed when Operation Blessing handpicked Emily's family to receive livelihood assistance. She was trained and given capital to begin a small rug making business. One of her children was also enrolled in a one-year feeding and scholarship program. Today, Emily's modest business earns income that provides enough food for her family.

Marjorie Bunda. As a local ice plant worker, Marjorie's husband's earnings could hardly meet his family's needs. Through the help of Operation Blessing, Marjorie learned skills in lamp making and obtained capital to set up a small-scale business. She now earns extra money by making and selling homemade lamps and is able to help her husband make ends meet. Marjorie was also one of Operation Blessing beneficiaries who were given an opportunity to display their products at the annual Christmas bazaar at the World Trade Center in Manila.

Fairchild Aranda. Fairchild belongs to the first batch of child beneficiaries of Operation Blessing and is one of hundreds of children from Payatas who were fed and given free schooling through OB's Bless-a-Child program. She was very skinny and severely malnourished when OB first saw her during a medical mission in Payatas in 1997. Today, nearly ten years later, 11-year-old Fairchild is a healthy, pretty girl with a winsome smile.

Paolo Pancho. Operation Blessing first met Paolo eight years ago during a medical mission in Payatas. Then only seven months old, he was sick, severely malnourished and looked lifeless when his mother brought him to the OB clinic site for medical care. For two years, OB provided Paolo with a supply of milk and vitamins and gave him regular check-ups until he became healthy. Today, Paolo is a strong, energetic young boy.

Sky Samonte. Sky's mother was pregnant with him when his father went to the United States to work and eventually cut off communication with them. During that time, Sky's family struggled to make ends meet. There were times when they hardly had anything to eat, bills piled up, and health problems began to arise. Then, during an Operation Blessing outreach in their barangay, six-year-old Sky was chosen to be a recipient of OB's Bless-a-Child program through which his health and education needs were met.

Marlyn Valencia. It was a small-scale business that helped change Marlyn and her family's life. Through Operation Blessing's micro-financing program, Marlyn was able to obtain an interest-free loan and begin a modest business of weaving baskets which she sells to neighbors and nearby markets in Bicol. Through hard work and perseverance, Marlyn is now able to earn a steady income that helps sustain her family's needs.

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Proverbs 3:9

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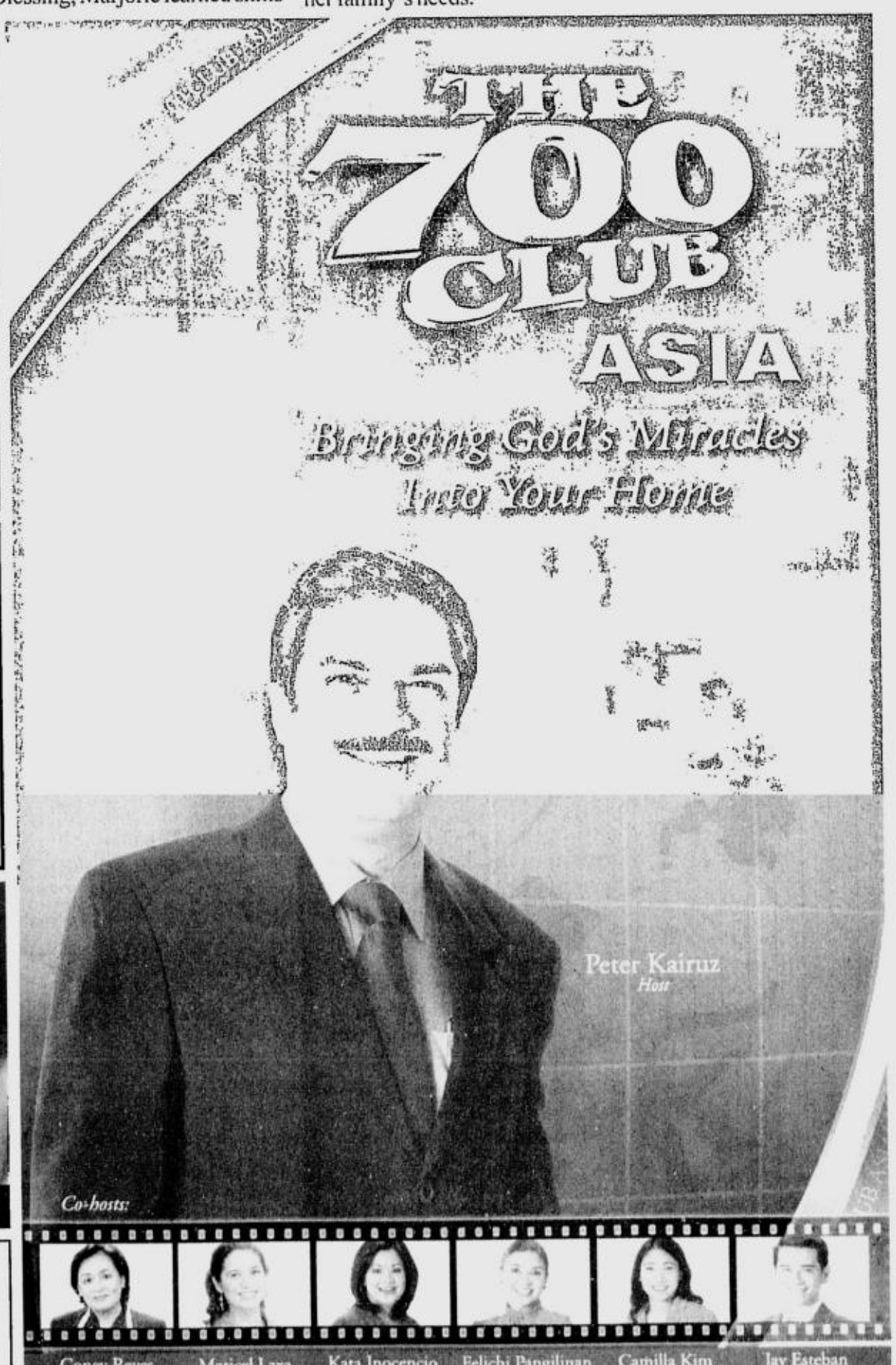

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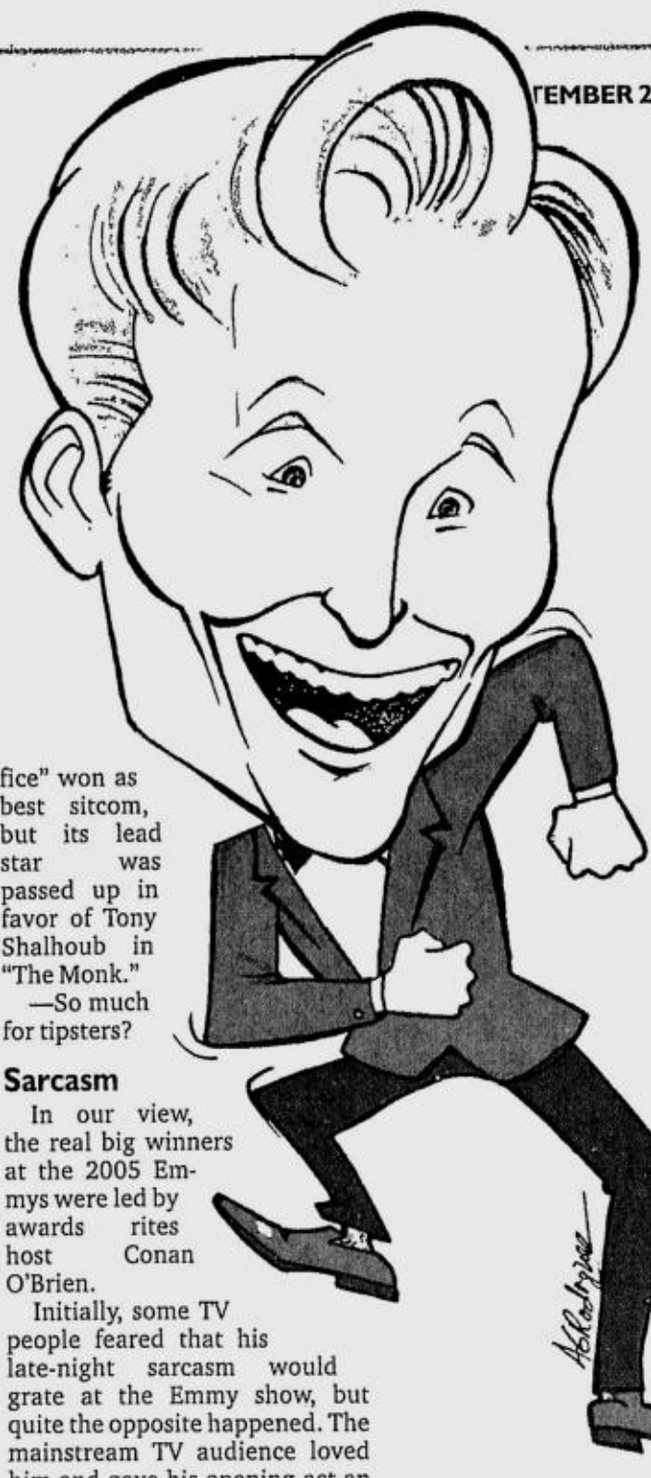
Big winners at the Emmys

By Nestor U. Torre

BEFORE THE 2005 EMMYS UNREELED LAST WEEK, tipsters believed that the big winners would include the medical drama, "Grey's Anatomy," and Steve Carell of "The Office" as best comedy actor.

After the smoke had cleared, a very different picture emerged: "Grey's Anatomy" was shut out in the awards derby, and "The Office" won as best sitcom, but its lead star was passed up in favor of Tony Shalhoub in "The Monk."

—So much for tipsters?



O'BRIEN. His opening act was greeted with an ovation.
CARRICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Sarcasm

In our view, the real big winners at the 2005 Emmys were led by awards rites host Conan O'Brien.

Initially, some TV people feared that his late-night sarcasm would grate at the Emmy show, but quite the opposite happened. The mainstream TV audience loved him and gave his opening act an ovation.

Viewers were especially bowled over by O'Brien's long musical spoof, in which he uncharacteristically sang and danced with a bevy of musical talents and chorus boys and girls.

Basically, O'Brien did for the Emmys what Billy Crystal did for the Oscars some years ago, with his own inventive musical spoof. Crystal went on to host the awards show some more times after his hit debut, so we wouldn't be surprised if O'Brien is tapped to host next year's Emmy Awards, too.

Another big winner was the "24" drama-thriller series, top-billed by Kiefer Sutherland, whose best actor victory was particularly sweet, because it came after *nine* Emmy nominations! Sutherland's at-long-last award should inspire other talents to take rejection with a brave and patient smile, and to just keep working hard until recognition finally comes their way.

Triumphant

Similarly triumphant was Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who's topbilling the new sitcom, "The New Adventures of Old Christine." Years ago, Julia was part of the hit "Seinfeld" gang that ruled the TV roost for a long time.

After Jerry Seinfeld pulled the plug on his hit show, however, Julia and the other gangmates came out in one flop after another, so Julia's best actress trophy has come in the nick of time, because it gives her a psychic boost exactly when she needs it most.

Julia was so thrilled to finally get her Emmy that she was hyperventilating something fierce when she gave her acceptance speech. And she even forgot to thank her husband!

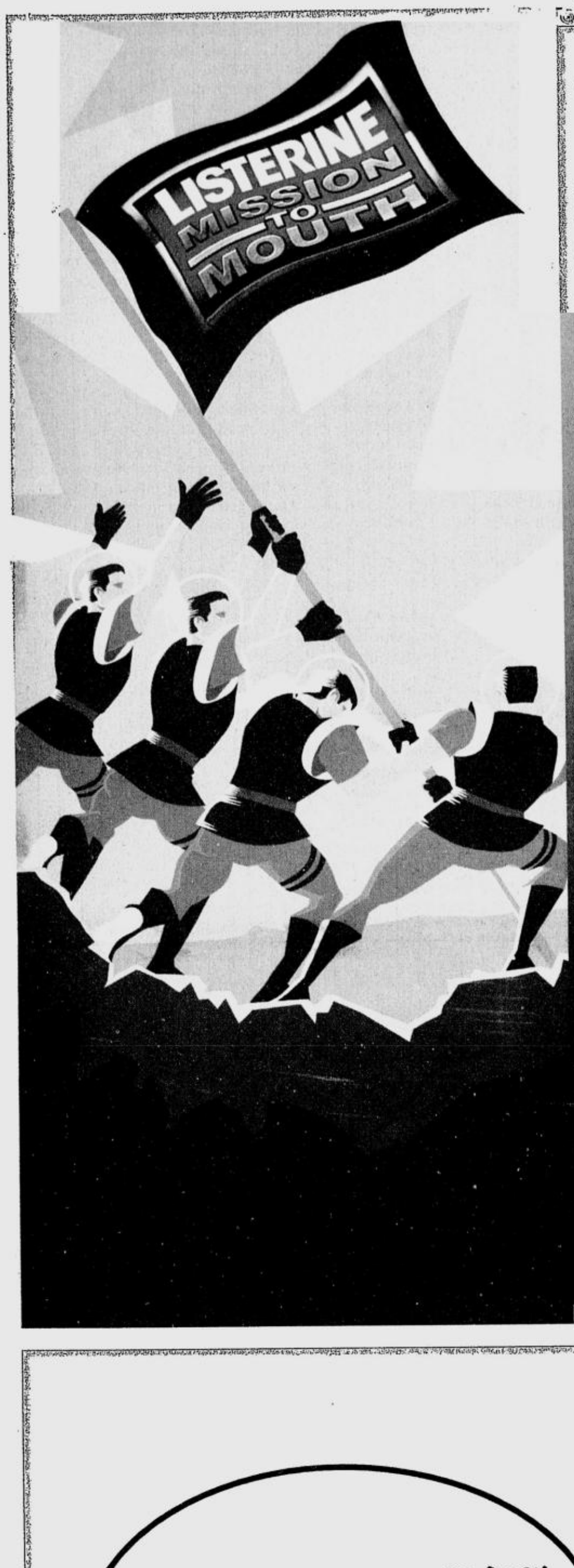
But, the award should work wonders for her career from here on in, so Julia—and her husband—will have a lot to celebrate in TV seasons to come, now that the "Seinfeld curse" has effectively been un-hexed.

Celebratory mood

Also in a celebratory mood these days is "The Amazing Race," which was honored as the best reality TV challenge—for the fourth straight year! The show beat such heavyweights as "American Idol" and "Survivor," so its success is doubly sweet.

Other highlights of the recent Emmy awards show include major nostalgia moments—like the rare group appearances of the principal stars of "Charlie's Angels" and "Dynasty."

As the "ageless" stars intoned their spiels in honor of producer Aaron Spelling, viewers were in a dither over how they had indeed aged, despite the gravity-defying "wonders" of plastic surgery. Down, girls!



Genuine relationships

A DEAR FRIEND RECENTLY SHARED "10 plus one" commandments for good marriage and friendship. These words of wisdom serve as reminders for mature human beings to observe in this age of conflict.

Timeless

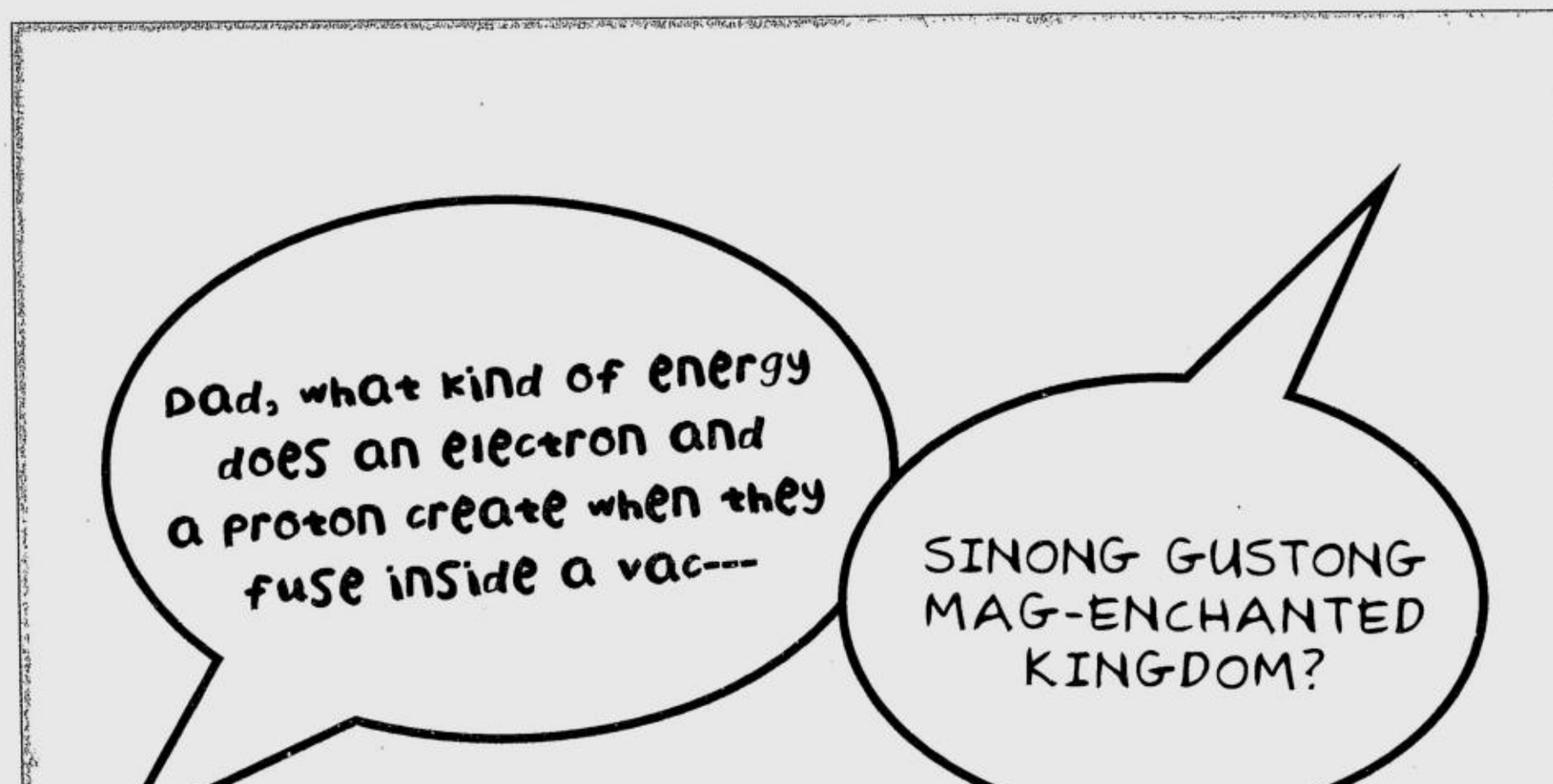
We hope that these timeless reminders will benefit people who wish to have genuine loving relationships with everyone in their lives:

1. Show respect.
2. Be tolerant.
3. Be kind with thoughts, words and deeds.
4. Be understanding.
5. Strive for perfection for yourself, but don't expect it from others.
6. Be encouraging.
7. Be slow to judge.
8. Apologize when you are wrong, even if the other person is more wrong.
9. Be forgiving.
10. Accept responsibility for your own misery.

Above all, be humble and compassionate. Make your loving service to the Supreme Person your top priority. As a sage succinctly puts it, "Love the Supreme Best Friend. And, with everyone else, be a nice and caring friend."

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark



NEWS / A2

NDF brands
Leyte gravesite 'a massive hoax'

ACROSS / A13

PNP chief
Calderon wants jueteng 'totally stopped' this month

WORLD / A20

British police
arrest 16 men in antiterrorism operations

TALK OF THE TOWN / A12

Cost of Guimaras oil spill:
Wildlife killed, marine reserve scarred, residents' health and livelihood threatened

Kidnapped Japanese back for trees he planted

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE JAPANESE VOLUNTEER worker who was held in captivity for two months in 1990 by the New People's Army returned to Negros Occidental this week to find the project he had started flourishing.

In 1990, Fumio Mizuno, then a volunteer of

KIDNAPPED/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, September 3, 2006 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 267 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Mourning Pluto: Planet would have won RP vote

By Blanche S. Rivera

IF PLUTO WERE LOBBYing to remain a full-fledged planet, it would have gotten the Philippine vote.

But would it have made a difference?

MOURNING / A9

Duterte confirms test

HERE COMES THE SUN
A resident of Legazpi City welcomes the new day with open arms in the area where foreign and domestic tourists sit and watch for the restless Mayon Volcano to erupt. The locals, especially those who live in the evacuated danger zone, just want to go on with their lives. REM ZAMORA

But gives no details of airport breach

By Inquirer Mindanao and Nikko Dizon *in Manila*

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER Rodrigo Duterte has confirmed that a security test was recently carried out on a Philippine domestic flight but gave no details, saying any explanation needed the clearance of "the highest authority."

Duterte's remarks were reported by the daily Sunstar Davao yesterday as investigators began picking up the trail of the airline passenger who triggered a widespread security alert for smuggling what supposedly were bomb components onto a Manila-to-Davao flight to test the adequacy of airport security measures.

The passenger, who said he was an antiterrorism expert, asked for anonymity when he detailed his operation in a story carried by the INQUIRER. An unnamed government official reportedly commissioned him to do the test, which he said he also carried out on his flight back to Manila.

The Sunstar said that according to Duterte—who is mayor of Davao City and presidential adviser on antiterrorism—the INQUIRER report was true but was not accurate.

"I'm not saying it's false. But it was not an accurate presentation of what really happened," Duterte was quoted by the Sunstar as saying.

Asked if he was aware of the test run prior to it being carried out, Duterte refused to divulge anything for security reasons, according to the Davao newspaper.

"We have an explanation for that but it has to be cleared by the highest authority," the mayor was quoted as saying.

The investigation by airport authorities into the incident has apparently yielded few clues about the antiterrorism expert who carried out the "experi-

DUTERTE/ A8

WHAT'S INSIDE

Heart Evangelista
is 'Idol' host, too

ENTERTAINMENT / F1

Fil-Am boy
comes home

GLOBAL PINOY / A19

'De kahon': Being in a box is what people call normal. But somehow we all know it's unhealthy, writes Gilda Cordero-Fernando

LIFESTYLE / C1

This girl
is driven to beat the odds

SUNDAY MAGAZINE / 1

SANDUK RUIT: "There can be no children of a lesser god."

He brings people out of the darkness

By Fe B. Zamora

FOR EYE SURGEON SANDUK RUIT, THE greatest fulfillment comes from delivering people afflicted with cataracts from the darkness into the light.

"Everyone deserves a good vision. There can be no children of a lesser god," said the 51-year-old surgeon renowned for pioneering suture-less eye surgery in Nepal.

MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

For putting Nepal "at the forefront of developing safe, effective and economical procedures for cataract surgery, enabling the needlessly blind in even the poorest countries to see again," the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation conferred on Ruit the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding.

"We Nepalese have never been known to give anything to other parts of the world. I feel proud that we have given this expertise to many countries," Ruit said in a speech titled "Making Medical Technology Work for the Poor" at the RM Awardees lecture series last Friday.

The procedure that Ruit developed has been adopted by more than 500 eye surgeons in Asia.

Ruit said there are nearly 18 million

HE BRINGS/ A6

POWER LUNCH

Thaw in frosty GMA ties with big business seen

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IT WAS A POWER LUNCH ATTENDED by some of the country's tycoons and the word from Malacañang was that they they were supportive of President Macapagal-Arroyo's P1-trillion national infrastructure program.

"They were excited about the President's plans. They said that even if the government would just finish half of the infrastructure projects it had planned for the next four years, it would have an immediate effect on the economy," Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Yap was referring to last week's meeting in Malacañang between Ms Arroyo and some of the big guns of Philippine business led by Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and SM Investments Corp. vice chair Teresita Sy-Coson.

Ms Arroyo met with the group to gather support for her massive infrastructure program involving transportation, communication, power and water projects.

Ms Arroyo also used the low-key gathering to renew her ties with the business community, which were frayed more than a year ago when the Makati Business Club (MBC) joined the "Hyatt 10" group of ex-Cabinet ex-

THAW/ A6

RUDY ESPERAS

TEACHERS HAVE FUN, TOO
The country's most outstanding teachers ham it up in a light moment during their photo session following Friday night's award ceremonies of the 2006 Search for Outstanding Teachers at the Metrobank building in Makati. The awardees are Ambeth Ocampo, Olivia Caling, Ruth Gelvezon, Isabel Eman, Raquel Fortun, Soledad Roguel, Evelyn Kimpo, Ofelia Lonoza, Gelly Alkuimo and Editha Banguilan (*Story on Page A9*).

WEATHER FORECAST

Extreme Northern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. While, Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Western Visayas.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/09/02/06

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2006

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Leyte mass grave a hoax, says NDF

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT IN EASTERN Visayas yesterday branded as "a massive hoax" Thursday's reported discovery in Inopacan, Leyte, of a mass gravesite allegedly containing the remains of communist rebels killed during the communist purge of the '80s.

Fr. Rafael Salas, NDF regional information officer, said the mass grave found in Inopacan was a "cover up" for the accusations hurled against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo for the killings of militants and activists.

"This massive hoax disparately aims to cover up the murder by the Arroyo government of the more than 700 activists and civilians to date and by demonizing the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army as inherently evil and inhumane," Salas said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

He said the discovery of the mass grave was timed with the creation of the Melo Commission and was part of the psychological warfare of the government to justify the military's claim that the killings were part of the "purging" by the communist organization.

President Arroyo yesterday vowed her administration would stop the extra judicial killings.

Addressing the 18th convention of the Philippine Transport and Workers Organization, the President said she formed the Melo Commission to solve all the killings, including those of labor leaders like lawyer Rodolfo Paglinawan and Paquito "Pacs" Diaz.

She said her administration was determined to stop the killings and protect the rights and freedoms of the people under the Bill of Rights.

But Doris Cuario, Karapatan-Southern Tagalog secretary general, said the efforts of the Melo Commission would be futile as it would be no different from its predecessor, Task Force Usig.

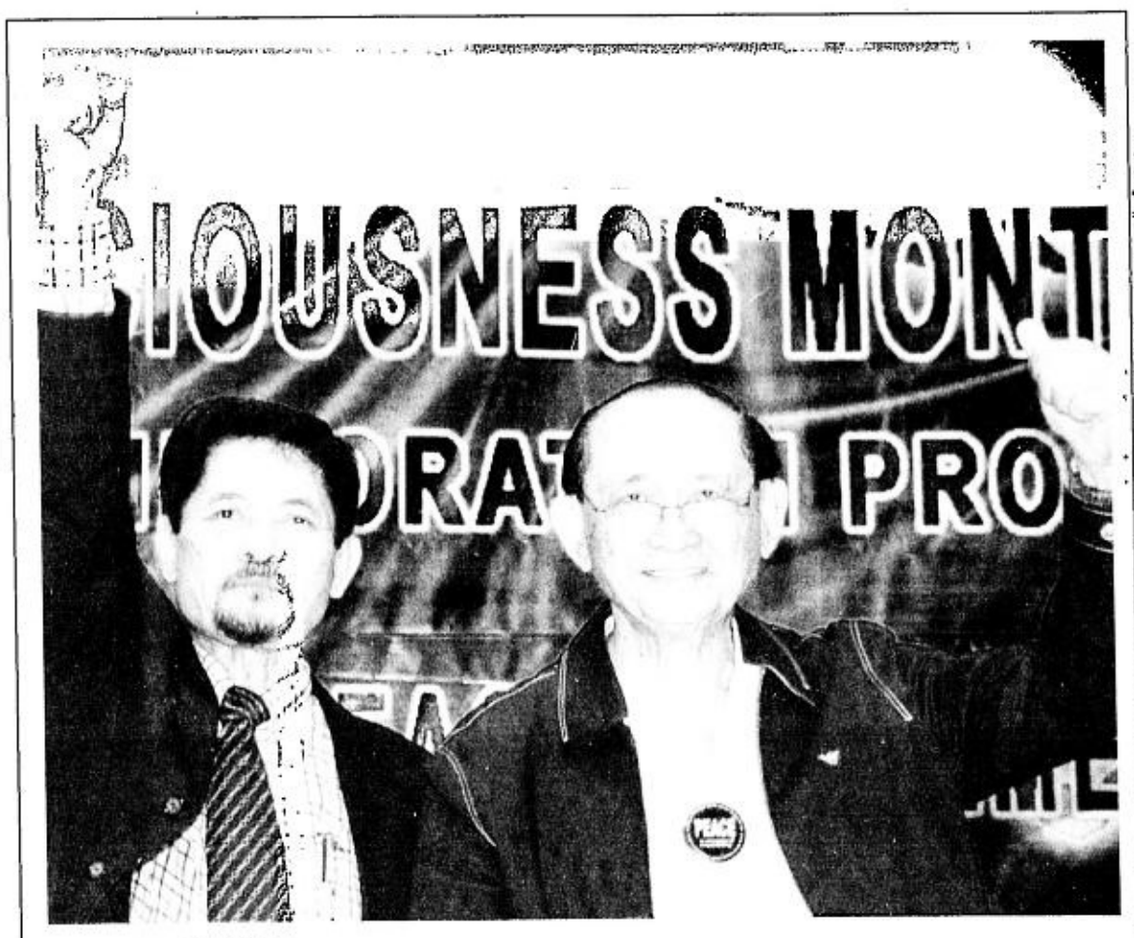
"What would make the commission's findings more comical and infuriating is that just like the TFU, it would also get its data from television and other media reports without delving into the hidden details of the gory crimes," said Cuario.

The police-led Task Force Usig, headed by Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., reportedly admitted before the Melo Commission that most of its data was based on television reports.

Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon, however, defended Task Force Usig.

"Task Force Usig has been doing its job well," Calderon said on Friday before the task force turned over its documents and records to the commission.

"That will be the basic documents that will be used by the Melo Commission," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



10 YEARS AFTER
Moro National Liberation Front chair Nur Misuari strikes a triumphant pose beside former President Fidel Ramos during the 10th anniversary of the signing of the GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement in Davao City yesterday. While Ramos enumerated the gains of the peace agreement, Misuari said no one believed the peace pact was "alive and kicking." He was given an 18-hour pass from military detention in Laguna to attend the rites. BING GONZALES/MINDANAO BUREAU

Palparan's trail: 136 cases in 11 mos.

ANGELES CITY—AT LEAST 136 OF 212 INCIDENTS OF human rights violations in Central Luzon occurred from February 2001 to August 2006, that is, during the 11-month stint of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan in the region, according to the leftist watchdog Karapatan.

Palparan denied having had a role in any of the incidents.

Karapatan said the 136 violations comprised 71 cases of summary executions, five massacres, 14 frustrated killings and 46 disappearances in the region's seven provinces.

It said that the incidents, which represented 64 percent of total violations in the period, surpassed the 76 recorded in the four years before Palparan's assignment as 7th Infantry Division commander in Central Luzon beginning Sept. 1, 2005.

In a separate statement, Roman Polintan, regional chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makayan (Bayan), said the incidents provided sufficient reason for the Melo Commission to recommend the relief of Palparan, tagged by militants as the "butcher" of political activists.

Palparan, in a telephone interview on Saturday, denied the accusation and said that the Karapatan tally only confirmed that the killings had been taking place long before his assignment to the region.

"Those leftists always blame me. They have to show evidence against me or any other Armed Forces [of the Philippines] officers or personnel," he said.

Polintan said it was necessary for the Melo panel, formed by Malacañang to look into the spate of rights violations in the country, to work for the relief of Palparan even as his mandatory retirement drew near, on Sept. 11, his 56th birthday. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Coup talk hounds military anew

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SIX MONTHS AFTER FOILING AN ALLEGED COUP plot by elite military and police forces led by ex-Scout Ranger commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin in February, the military is again bugged by coup jitters.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. is not taking any chances.

Esperon yesterday ordered a camp defense drill at Camp Aguinaldo general headquarters after rumors circulated on Friday that elite troops were again getting "restless."

But military officials denied the rumors.

An official said speculation about another coup could have been prompted by the assembly of over 100 Scout Ranger troops at the Special Operations Command headquarters at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija on Friday.

The troops boarded a C-130 military transport plane bound for Sulu where they were deployed to augment Marine and Army battalions that are battling the Abu Sayyaf group.

Camp commander Brig. Gen. Alfredo Cayton, who was assigned to head "Task Group Aguinaldo," directed the drill that began at 7 a.m.

All gates were closed as hundreds of soldiers stationed at Camp Aguinaldo rushed to the grandstand where a command post was set up.

Within 17 minutes, hundreds of soldiers, fire trucks, ambulances and two V-150 armored personnel carriers were assembled on the camp's parade grounds.

Later during the assessment, Cayton told the troops he was not satisfied with their 17-minute response time since they had been told about the drill the day before.

Cayton said Esperon himself ordered the drill to check the troops' readiness in case of an attack.

"This drill was directed by the chief of staff because he knows best," said Cayton, who was assigned to his post last month shortly after Esperon assumed office on July 21.

He said the next drill would be conducted on a weekday and would involve non-military personnel and soldiers' families who live and work inside the camp "because even tenants will be attacked by these military rightists."

Bolante files habeas corpus petition in Wisconsin court

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONTROVERSIAL FORMER AGRICULTURE Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante has filed a petition for habeas corpus before an American court, a lawyer told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Harry Roque Jr. said Bolante, who is detained at the Kenosha Rehabilitation Center in Wisconsin, filed a petition for habeas corpus before a federal district court in that US state.

He said the petition came after Bolante asked a Chicago immigration court to grant him bail nearly two months after his arrest in Los Angeles in July for entering the US with a cancelled visa.

"This shows that he did not expect to be detained this long by American authorities. I believe he filed the petition for habeas corpus because he knows that the judge (in Chicago) will not grant him bail," Roque said in an interview.

Granting his habeas corpus petition would hasten Bolante's appearance in court.

He said Bolante was practically "forum shopping," adding that he was confident the former agriculture official's petition for habeas corpus would also be denied.

"We have the same law here on habeas corpus, which says that an applicant is not entitled to habeas corpus when he's involved in an immigration case," Roque said.

"Mr. Bolante cannot credibly claim that his detention has no legal basis," he added.

Roque noted that Bolante also tried to ask the LA immigration court that initially heard his case to grant him bail.

"That was denied because he is a flight risk. He could disappear again if he's allowed bail," he said.

Bolante is believed to have disbursed P728 million in fertilizer funds to administration allies to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory in the 2004 presidential election.

He was arrested at the Los Angeles International Airport on July 7 for supposedly carrying a canceled B1/B2 visa. The reason for the visa cancellation remains unknown.

Bolante was initially detained at the San Pedro Detention Center on Terminal Island, 48 km from Los Angeles, before the case was transferred to Chicago.

The transfer was seen as a "delaying tactic" since most of the witnesses—the immigration authorities who arrested Bolante—were based in Los Angeles and would have to make trips to Chicago to testify.

P1-M reward for BIR tipsters

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE COMMISsioner Jose Mario Buñag yesterday promised rewards of up to P1 million for information that would lead to the successful recovery of payments from tax evaders.

"I appeal to the public, especially those who have knowledge of tax evasion, to text to the BIR information that would lead to the unmasking of the tax evader," Buñag said.

Buñag assured tipsters that their names and mobile phone numbers would be kept secret in accordance with the policy of the BIR and the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code.

Under Section 282 of the National Internal Revenue Code, any person who provides information to the BIR that leads to the recovery of revenues, surcharges and fees, and the conviction of the guilty party, will be rewarded with 10 percent of the recovered revenues, surcharges and fees up to a maximum of P1 million.

Bunag issued the appeal in a bid to further increase tax collections in support of the government's program to wipe out its budget deficit.

"More revenues would also mean more money for the building of roads, schools and bridges, and more money for health, education and other services," he said.

Buñag has cited business establishments for leakages in tax collection.

He directed BIR officials to intensify their drive against establishments that fail to issue receipts or understate their sales to escape payment of taxes.

The BIR has been conducting spot inspection visits on various establishments in various cities, especially Metro Manila, to catch business establishments that do not issue receipts. Favorite hunting grounds for the BIR for non-issuance of receipts are malls, markets and gasoline stations. Fines are imposed on the spot. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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DAHIL SMART TAYO

ILO cites RP efforts in curbing child labor

By Jerome Aning

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR Organization has cited the Philippines for making progress in combating child labor, during the recently concluded summit of Asian labor and employment ministers in Busan, South Korea.

The ILO said the Philippines, along with Cambodia, Mongolia, Indonesia and Vietnam had set "concrete deadlines" to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

Tripartite delegates from the Philippines and 11 other East and Southeast Asian countries last met in July in Jakarta to list priorities for action against child labor.

These include increasing efforts to combat poverty and expand education, allocating more money to combat child labor, setting national targets to end the worst forms of child labor as soon as possible, paying attention to vulnerable groups such as minorities and migrants, and completing the ratification of the ILO fundamental conventions.

Latest figures from the Department of Labor and Employment showed that there were about 2.128 million children aged 5 to 17 who were working in the country. Most worked in the agriculture sector and those who are wage-earners were paid about P100 a day.

Decent work

The Busan summit, which ended Friday, focused on realizing decent work in Asia. The ILO said child labor was clearly linked to efforts to promote decent work.

"By its very nature, [child labor] deprives children and young people of the preparation they need to obtain safe and productive work once they have reached employment age, while also depriving adults of the opportunity for decent work," it said.

According to the ILO, political commitment to reduce poverty and expand free and quality education has an important bearing on the elimination of child labor.

The government last conducted a nationwide survey on child labor in 2001.

Based on various Labor Force Surveys conducted last year, the DOLE's Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics said about 8.4 percent of the country's 25 million children were working.

More than half (1.2 million) are 15-17 years old and nearly two thirds are male. Most (about 845,000) are elementary undergraduates.

About a fourth (545,000) are found in the less developed regions of Northern Mindanao and Eastern Visayas.

Skilled workers

More than half of all child workers work in agriculture and forestry. More than two-thirds are employed as laborers and unskilled workers with an average daily of P100.

Six out of 10 work for their families but are not paid. Half have jobs that are permanent, or with fixed salary and lasting a year or more.

In job categories with possible work hazards, about 134,000 work in the fishing industry, 110,000 in manufacturing, 25,000 in construction and 9,000 in mining and quarrying.

Child workers normally work for as long as 7 hours a day but their average hours of work per week were only 26 hours. Children employed in private households-about 177,000, most of them helpers-worked the longest at 9 hours a day or 60 hours a week. They are also paid the cheapest(around P84 per day).

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ALLERGY, ASTHMA AND IMMUNOLOGY

10TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

HOTEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA

(formerly Westin Philippine Plaza)
ROXAS BOULEVARD, PASAY CITY
SEPTEMBER 11 & 12, 2006

MESSAGES

Fresh from the success of their 9TH Biennial Convention, the Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (PSAAI) is once again gearing up for it's next conference aptly entitled, "Allergy and Immunology for the Clinician".

The past decade has seen a rapid increase in the incidence of allergic diseases worldwide. PSAAI, which celebrates its 34th year, hopes to help the medical practitioner address the issues of diagnosing, managing and educating patients with allergic as well as immunologic diseases.

The convention, will be held at the Hotel Philippine Plaza from Sept 11-12, 2006, and will Dr. Ronina Covar-Orendain from the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver, Colorado as well as experts in the field of Allergy-Immunology, Otorhinolaryngology and Rheumatology.

Other activities include a research contest and industry-sponsored luncheon, breakfast and twilight symposia.

Greetings and welcome to you all to the 10th Biennial Convention of the Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (PSAAI)! Our convention theme, "Allergy and Immunology for the Clinician" serves to underscore the fact that groundbreaking work of scientists in the field of basic immunology has enabled not only a llergists, but clinicians across all fields of medicine, to reap the rewards of a better clinical practice in terms of a clearer understanding of various diseases and better diagnostics and therapeutics.

A well-rounded scientific program has been carefully crafted to include the most recent developments in the field of allergy and immunology and other related subspecialties. We are privileged to have as our distinguished guest speaker, Dr. Ronina Covar of the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver, Colorado, USA. Our very own experts in allergy, immunology, otorhinolaryngology, dermatology and rheumatology have generously lent their time and knowledge to this event.

The Convention would not have been possible without the hard work and unselfish cooperation of the Organizing Committee. Our friends in the pharmaceutical industry have extended their unstinting support, enabling us to realize our erstwhile wistful dreams.

Thank you and welcome!

RUBY NAGTALON-FORONDA, M.D.
Overall Chair
10th Biennial Convention

It is my honor to welcome you to the 10th Biennial Convention of the Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, with the theme "Allergy and Immunology for the Clinician". This year is doubly memorable because it coincides with the centennial celebration of the coining of the word "Allergy" by Clemens Von Pirquet, a Viennese Pediatrician.

With the task of reaching out to the clinicians involved in the primary or specialty care, the convention aims to further disseminate current knowledge in the recognition and management of allergic and immunologic disorders commonly seen in our daily practice. This will be facilitated by competent speakers who will share their vast experience and expertise.

It is my hope that this 2-day convention will further enhance our competence in dealing with allergic and immunologic conditions which affect our patients and which occasionally baffle and challenge our diagnostic and therapeutic acumen.

We enjoin each and everyone to help us raise the standard of clinical care of our allergic patients.

Welcome delegates and MABUHAY!

HIYASMIN M. LIM, M.D.
President, PSAAI

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CONVENTION THEME:
ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY FOR THE CLINICIAN

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 1: SEPTEMBER 11, 2006 (MONDAY)

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM
REGISTRATION

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
OPENING CEREMONIES

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
STIFLING THE SNEEZE: UNDERSTANDING ALLERGIC RHINITIS AND ITS TREATMENT
Ma. Patricia G. Santos-Abes, M.D.
Antonio Benjamin S.A. Campomanes, Jr., M.D.

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM
BREAK VISIT TO EXHIBITS

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM
OPTIMIZING PEDIATRIC ASTHMA TREATMENT
Ronina A. Covar-Orendain, M.D.

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM
A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO DRUG ALLERGY
Jovilia M. Abong, M.D.

LUNCHEON SYMPOSIA
(12:15 PM – 2:00 PM)

OPTIMIZING INFANT NUTRITION IN THE 21ST CENTURY: BALANCING EARLY IMMUNE RESPONSES TOWARDS ORAL TOLERANCE AND THEREBY REDUCING THE RISK FOR EARLY ATOPIC MANIFESTATIONS
Bianca Maria Exl-Preysch, M.D.
(Nestlé Phils.)

THE BURDEN OF TODAY'S ALLERGY: A POTENT ANTIHISTAMINE FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL
Prof. De Yun Wang, M.D.
(UCB Pharma)

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM
ATOPIC DERMATITIS: NEW THERAPEUTIC PARADIGMS
Ronina A. Covar-Orendain, M.D

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM
PRURITUS: IS IT ALLERGY
Nenita L. Alberto, M.D.

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM
BREAK VISIT TO EXHIBITS

3:45 PM – 4:30 PM
ADVERSE REACTIONS TO IMMUNIZATIONS
Liza Stefanie P. Sulay, M.D.

TWILIGHT SYMPOSIA
(4:30 PM – 6:30 PM)

TOPICAL IMMUNOMODULATORS IN ATOPIC DERMATITIS
Tay Yong Kwang, M.D.
(Janssen Pharmaceutical)

POLYUNSATURATED FATTY ACIDS IN INFLAMMATION AND IMMUNITY
Marysia Stella T. Recto, M.D.
Randy P. Urtula, M.D.
(Mead Johnson)

DAY 2: SEPTEMBER 12, 2006 (TUESDAY)

BREAKFAST SYMPOSIA
(7:30 AM – 9:00 AM)

RHINOSINUSITIS IN CHILDREN: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE
Madeleine W. Sumpaico, M.D.
(UNILAB-ULCH)

THE NAKED TRUTH ABOUT SKIN AGING
Nenita L. Alberto, M.D.
(UNILAB-BIOFEMME)

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM
SEVERE CUTANEOUS DRUG REACTIONS
Lesley James F. Mangaoil, M.D

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM
ARTURO ROTOR MEMORIAL LECTURE
"CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH ALLERGIC MIMICKERS AND ALLERGIES INCOGNITO"
Remedios C. Ong, M.D.

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM
BREAK VISIT TO EXHIBITS

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM
UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERY OF A.P.A.S.
Lara Theresa A. Aleta, M.D.
Marysia Stella T. Recto, M.D.

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM
ALLERGY IN REPRODUCTIVE WOMEN
Linda L. Varona, M.D

LUNCHEON SYMPOSIA
(12:15 PM – 2:00 PM)

BEYOND HISTAMINE BLOCKADE WITH ANTIHISTAMINE THERAPY
Remedios C. Ong, M.D.
(Schering Plough Corp.)

THERAPEUTIC IMPLICATIONS OF A UNIFIED AIRWAY
Hiyasmin M. Lim, M.D.
(Merck Sharp & Dohme)

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM
CLINICAL CLUES IN THE VASCULITIDES
Christine B. Bernal, M.D.

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM
RECURRENT INFECTION: WHEN SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?
Mary Anne R. Castor, M.D.

3:30 PM – 4:15 PM
FOOD ALLERGY: FROM HISTORY TO CHALLENGE
Venjilyn S. Villaver, M.D.

TWILIGHT SYMPOSIUM
(4:15 PM – 6:00 PM)

Galderma Philippines, Inc.

6:00 PM – ONWARDS
CLOSING CEREMONIES

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For Information Contact:

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Quezon City
Telefax 712-9432

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 3, 2006
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
Keep Yahweh's commands

Moses said to the people, "Now, Israel, listen to the norms and laws which I teach that you may put them into practice. And you will live and enter and take possession of the land which Yahweh, the God of your fathers, gives you.

Do not add anything to what I command you nor take anything away from it. But keep the commandments of Yahweh, your God, as I command you.

If you observe and practice them, other peoples will regard you as wise and intelligent. When they come to know of all these laws, they will say, "There is no people as wise and as intelligent as this great nation." For in truth, is there a nation as great as ours, whose gods are as near to it as Yahweh, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? And is there a nation as great as ours whose norms and laws are as just as this Law which I give you today?

2nd Reading: James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27
Active faith

Every good and perfect gift comes from above, from the Father of Light, in whom there is no change or shadow of a change. By his own will he gave us life through the Word of Truth, that we might be a kind of offering to him among his creatures.

So get rid of any filth and reject the prevailing evil, and welcome the Word that has been planted in you and has the power to save you.

Be doers of the Word and not just hearers, lest you deceive yourselves.

In the sight of God, our Father, pure and blameless religion lies in helping the orphans and widows in their need and keeping oneself from the world's corruption.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Lip service only

One day the Pharisees gathered around Jesus and with them were some teachers of the Law who had just come from Jerusalem.

They noticed that some of his disciples were eating their meal with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. Now the Pharisees, and in fact, all the Jews, never eat without washing their hands for they follow the tradition received from their ancestors. Nor do they eat anything when they come from the market without first washing themselves. And there are many other traditions they observe, for example, the ritual washing of cups, pots and plates.

So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law asked him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders, but eat with unclean hands?"

Jesus answered, "You, shallow people! How well Isaiah prophesied of you when he wrote: This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, for what they teach are only human rules. You even put aside the commandment of God to hold fast to human tradition."

Jesus then called the people to him again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and try to understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can make that person unclean. It is what comes out from within that makes unclean for evil designs come out of the heart: theft, murder, adultery, jealousy, greed, maliciousness, deceit, indecency, slander, pride and folly. All these evil things come from within and make a person unclean."

Commentary

Moses exhorts the people to observe the law, to obey them and set their sights by them so that they will be seen as a wise and intelligent people whose God is close to them. The whole law is set before them. And we have been given the whole law/wisdom and gift of God in Jesus. God wills to bring us to birth with a word spoken in truth and to take that Word down to our roots. We are supposed to care for the least and worship with integrity. In the words of Jesus in the gospel, we are to do no evil and render obedience to God from deep in our hearts. Do we heed God's commandments or are we more intent on human traditions and what others think of us? Again we are questioned before Jesus.

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UNILAB

Singapore ruling not enforceable in RP – DOJ

By Armand N. Nocum

THE ORDER OF THE SINGAPORE-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Arbitration Tribunal for the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) to retake the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 cannot be enforced "automatically" in the country.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said Piatco would have to go through a local court and endure prolonged hearings in order to convince the court to enforce the order.

"They can only enforce that through our courts. That's a foreign judgment. Foreign judgments cannot be enforced automatically here; they have to file a case in our courts," he said.

Gonzalez was reacting to Piatco's takeover of Naia Terminal 3 on the strength of the ICC's order for the government to return Naia 3 to Piatco, the Filipino-German consortium that built the terminal, for failing to pay the consortium P3 billion .

"The party (Piatco) who won judgment should be the one to go to the courts. They will have to file the case in court in Pasay based on the foreign judgment. There will be a trial. That's a long process," Gonzalez said of the scenario awaiting Piatco should it insist on enforcing the ICC order.

He said the ICC order would have to go through the Department of Justice should Piatco bring it to court.

"The order is not enforceable ... it has to go through us, that's under our rules of court," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, however, said the government was ready to hand over to Piatco the P3 billion initial payment ordered by the Supreme Court so the government could take over and operate the airport.

Lacson quietly forming grand coalition for '07

By TJ Burgonio

HE WON'T BE CAUGHT NAPPING WITH THE election season just around the corner.

A newly formed party of Sen. Panfilo Lacson has been quietly holding talks with leaders of an emerging political opposition aimed at forging a grand coalition for the 2007 national elections.

Lacson's Unlad Pilipino has been engaged in back-door talks with the Nacionalista Party led by Senate President Manuel Villar Jr., the Liberal Party wing of Sen. Franklin Drilon, as well as with former leaders of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP), pro-impeachment congressmen and party-list representatives for three months now.

The party, which is yet to be approved after it was registered with the Commission on Elections, is chaired by Lacson.

Lito Banayo, Unlad Pilipino's vice president for Mindanao, said in an interview he believed the coalition would prosper and result in the drafting of a common "powerhouse" senatorial slate that could shut out allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo in next year's mid-term elections.

"We're doing very well. We feel very confident about it. In fact, the only problem that we see now is how to reduce the number of candidates to 12," Banayo said.

He said the party was considering drafting for its senatorial slate Villar and Representatives Alan Peter Cayetano and Gilbert Remulla of the NP, and Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Representatives Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino Jr. and Nereus Acosta of the LP.

Lacson, for his part, is undecided on whether to seek reelection or run for mayor of Manila.

Friend of Pinoys' daughter dies at 62

TRAGEDY STRUCK THE FAMILY OF AMERIcan friend to the Filipinos Daniel Boone Schirmer a second time in four months when his daughter Abigail (Abbie) died suddenly in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Aug. 23, 2006. Boone Schirmer, who passed away on April 21, was a renowned American advocate for Philippine national interests and the withdrawal of US bases from the Philippines.

"Abbie's passing came so suddenly," said her husband An Nguyen, "because she was active as usual the day before. No signs of any illness."

Abbie shared her father and mother's passionate concern for people in the Third World. She participated in antiwar demonstrations and was arrested along with her mother Peggy for protesting against the apartheid regime in South Africa on Nov. 21,1986. At the time of her father's death, she recounted, "He [Boone] and Mom had a great influence on us children. We were a close family. We all became radicals, though we were doing different things."

At their home at 17 Gerry Street in Cambridge, the Schirmers played host to luminaries of the movement against the Marcos dictatorship such as Sister Mariani Dimaranan, Sen. Jose Diokno, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., Francisco (Dodong) Nemenzo, Randy David, Ed de la Torre, Joel Rocamora and Roland Simbulan.

Abbie was 62 when she died. She is survived by her husband and their two children, Liem and Lan; her sister Audrey of Montreal, and her brother Joseph.

Walden Bello, Contributor

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, THE FRONT page article "Apostol dares media: Be a disturbing presence" misstated the age of Eugenia Duran-Apostol. She was born on Sept. 29, 1925, which makes her 80 years old, not 82.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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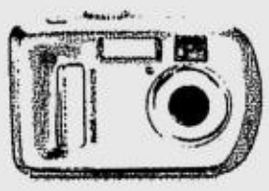

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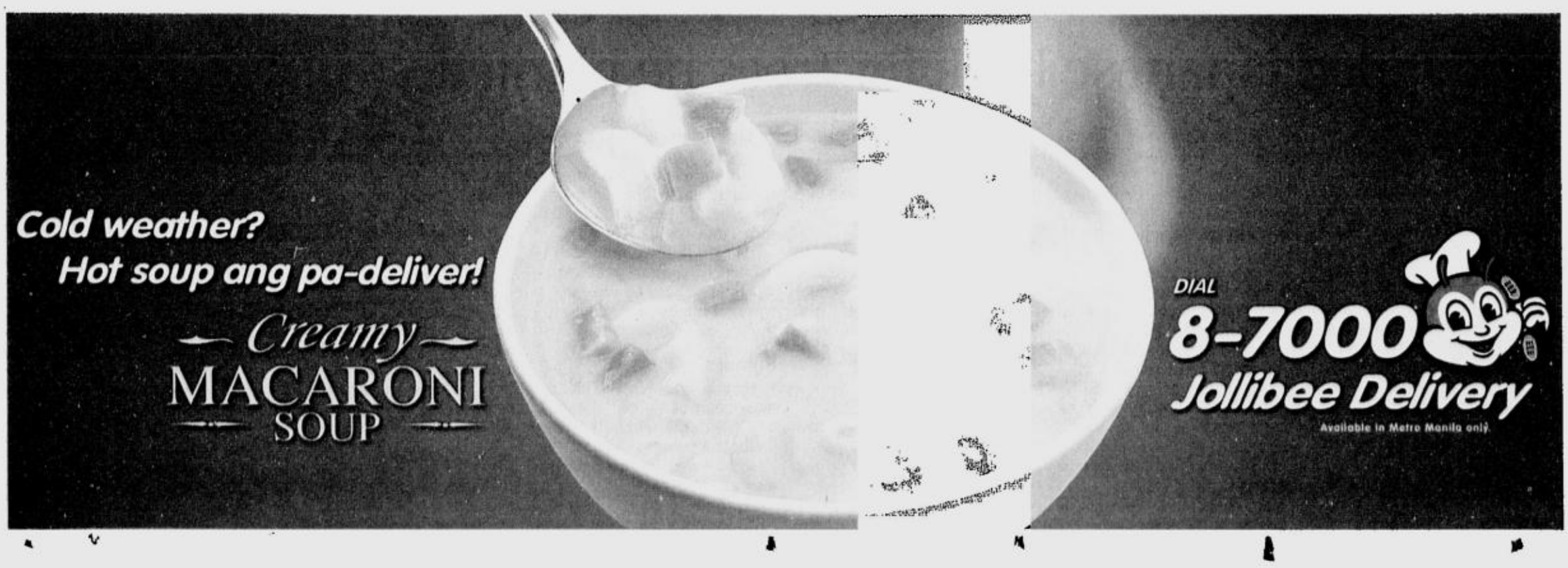

ROUND TABLE: President Macapagal-Arroyo discusses development projects in the Luzon Urban Beltway "super region" during a roundtable discussion in Malacañang Saturday with (from left) Clark locator Dennis Uy, Secretary Ed Pamintuan, Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi and businessman Art Tugade. PCPO/MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Thaw in frosty GMA ties with big business seen

From page A1

ecutives in calling for her resignation.

"They're folding in," Yap said. "They asked the President how can they help. And the President told them they can help by supporting her projects."

Aside from Zobel and Sy-Coson, the businessmen who attended were SGV founder Washington Sycip, Phinma group chair Oscar Hilado, and former Prime Minister and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chair Cesar E.A. Virata.

Unresolved to this day

The President's guests were members of the MBC whose executive board issued a statement on July 8 last year asking her to step down "for the sake of the commonweal, for the sake of national unity, and for the sake of moving forward."

The resignation call came in the midst of the "Hello Garci" scandal centered on accusations that Ms Arroyo had rigged the results of the 2004 presidential election in a conspiracy with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

The controversy remains unresolved to this day.

That big leap

Yap said Ms Arroyo told her guests that while all key economic indicators had been showing positive signs, the Philippines had yet to make that big leap toward high and sustained economic growth.

Yap said two key factors were cited—the political noise which has kept many foreign investors away and the poor state of infrastructure, which Ms Arroyo hoped to address in her infrastructure investment program.

During the meeting, Zobel related how his off-road adventures on his dirt bike across the Philippines showed him what this country was still capable of but was only hampered by the lack of access.

What Jaza saw

"Jaza said he goes around Aurora on his bike and he just loved the province. But he said the road to Aurora from Nueva Ecija is all mud and this has made the province's tourism and agriculture potential underutilized," Yap said.

In a PowerPoint presentation during the lunch meeting, Yap said Ms Arroyo spoke of her plan to spend P1.711 trillion up to 2010, representing 4.45 percent of gross domestic product, the minimum infrastructure spending needed to ensure the economy follows a high growth path.

The infrastructure allocation will go to transportation projects, specifically railroads and highways (52 percent or P889 billion), power projects (21 percent or P361 billion), water (14.6 percent or P250.49 billion), social projects (9.6 percent or P164.32 billion), and communications (1.25 percent of P21.44 billion).

Better monitoring

In view of the sheer size and number of the infrastructure projects, Yap said Ms Arroyo asked for the private sector's help in picking the most important of these projects that would be the subject of the government's tight monitoring.

Yap said the businessmen were keen on joining the infrastructure monitoring task force, which he leads.

"It's going to be better with business behind us," said Yap, who described his role as a "troubleshooter" of government projects caught in bureaucratic gridlock. "We can monitor the projects more thoroughly and make sure that all the agencies implement their projects on schedule. We need this kind of pressure and transparency."

Summit in Makati

The first major project that the government will have with the businessmen is the national infrastructure summit next month. "It's going to be a sort of roadshow to generate private sector interest in these projects. We want their help in monitoring and financing these projects," said Yap, who noted that the businessmen had committed to support the summit to be held at Makati City.

He brings people out of the darkness

From page A1

people who have become blind from cataracts, and another 100 million are on the way to becoming blind because of the disease. Most of these cases are to be found in Asia and other developing countries. He said these figures are expected to double by 2020.

Ruit said some of the associated effects of cataract blindness include a shortened life expectancy, a diminution of income, employment and social standing, loss of authority within the family and increased economic burden for the family.

Born to a poor family in a remote area of Nepal, Ruit recalls having to walk for 11 days to reach the nearest school. A diligent student, he won a scholarship to study in India. He decided to become a doctor after his sister died of tuberculosis. He returned to his country as a government health officer.

Suture-less surgery

Specializing in opthalmogy, Ruit learned from his mentor, the Australian Dr. Fred Hollows, the latest cataract micro-surgery techniques using implanted intraocular lenses.

By 1988, Ruit was teaching the new techniques to Nepalese eye surgeons. With the Nepal Eye Program Australia, he went to Nepal's far-flung villages, performing on-the-spot operations. He also developed his now famous suture-less procedure, a hospital-quality operation under makeshift conditions.

According to Ruit, the modified small-incision sutureless surgery (SICS) can be done even outside a hospital. With a strong paramedical team for support, "two surgeons can do 150 operations quite easily in one day," he said.

Using this technique that he has mastered, Ruit can perform as many as 100 surgeries in one day, whether under the barest conditions in mobile "eye-camps" or in conventional hospitals.

In 1994, Ruit opened the Tilganga Eye Centre (TEC), a pioneer in primary eye care in the country, which also maintains Nepal's eye bank and trains eye-care practitioners on Ruit's sutureless technique.

Inexpensive implants

The TEC manufactures the "extremely high-quality " intraocular lenses used in cataract surgery, making these expensive implants available to poor patients for only $4.

According to Ruit, many cataract sufferers lose their eyesight because of the high cost of the surgery and the implant. The TEC, with the help of the Fred Hollows Foundation and the Himalayan Cataract Project, has changed that.

He said the possibility that this type of surgery could be brought to the poor masses in the community where it is badly needed has given rise to optimism in the international ophthalmic community.

"We are committed to making the successful model of high-volume cataract surgery with a good vision outcome available and accessible in the developing world," said Ruit.

Kidnapped Japanese back for trees he planted

From page A1

the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA), a Japanese group similar to the American Peace Corps, was organizing farmers and helping them plant crops other than sugar.

For two years, he had been teaching farmers in Murcia town, located 16.5 kilometers south of this city, how to plant mulberry trees that would serve as food source for silkworms.

His dream was to help the people start a silk industry in Negros Occidental.

But that dream came to a temporary halt on May 29, 1990, when a small group of NPA guerrillas picked him up while he was working at a mulberry farm in Murcia town.

At the time of his kidnapping, Mizuno had been a volunteer worker in the Philippines for 12 years.

"They told me they were inviting me to meet their commanders, but after three days they announced that I had been kidnapped," he told the INQUIRER in an interview on Tuesday.

For a month, Mizuno said he had no communication with the outside world as his six young NPA guards, who were about 16 or 17 years old, hid him deep in the forests.

"We walked a lot and slept in makeshift huts," he recalled.

There were times when all they had to eat were three pieces of hard corn, and on better days, some rice and wild vegetables from the forests.

Think positive

Mizuno, who is now 52, said he tried to think positive so he would stay calm. He thought of his wife Perpetua, who came from Naga, and their daughters Aiko, then 6, and Saichiko, 4.

It was only during the second month of his captivity that he realized that his kidnapping had created so much international interest and had brought a throng of reporters to Negros.

Mizuno said he later learned that a small local NPA unit initiated his kidnapping to raise money through ransom. But when the incident started to draw international attention, the top men in the rebel movement decided to turn it into a political issue.

"They said I was suspected of working for the government; that a military court decided that I was not guilty and I was released," he said.

Rumors

Mizuno was released in the hinterlands of Murcia on Aug. 2, 1990, with the rebels delivering political messages against the Philippine and Japanese governments.

There were rumors that the NPA received millions of pesos as ransom but Mizuno said the amount paid was simply "reimbursement for expenses" the rebels incurred for taking care of him.

On Aug. 9, 1990, Mizuno returned to Japan with his family.

He worked at the OISCA headquarters in Tokyo for two years but left because he needed to earn more money. His daughters were growing up, he said.

He has since worked in the human resource management department of a subsidiary of Japan's ministry of labor for 13 years.

Mulberry trees

Despite his unfortunate experience, Mizuno has returned to the Philippines accompanied by his family for a brief visit.

His girls are all grown up now— Aiko is now 22 and Saichiko is 20.

Meanwhile, under the guidance of Shigemi Watanabe, OISCA Visayas director, the mulberry project that Mizuno started in 1990 has grown.

About 155 farmers from Negros Occidental and Oriental are actively involved in planting mulberry trees and growing silkworms whose cocoons produce silk yarn, according to Thelma Watanabe, president of the Negros Mayu and Silk Corp.

Today, OISCA has a silk-reeling plant in Bago City that produces 83 to 85 percent of the yarn for the country's silk requirement.

Airport experiment irresponsible —Biazon

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

BIAZON

SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON, chair of the Senate committee on national defense, said yesterday the security experiment involving the smuggling of bomb components onto two domestic flights was an "irresponsible" operation that Malacañang must explain to the public.

"What if an accident occurred?" said Biazon. He said if the bomb had accidentally exploded, it could have blown up the plane and killed all its passengers.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the operation served the security officials right and that they should be thankful they had such a wake-up call.

Lacson said the experiment did not pose any danger to passengers because the expert merely showed he could bring bomb components on the flight and he could assemble them.

Biazon said if the operation was not a hoax, then Malacañang must investigate why such a delicate security test was not made known to top officials, including the heads of the Armed Forces, the police, airport security and others in charge of anti-terrorism.

Unheard of

Biazon said he had never heard of any similar experiment before.

"This is a very surprising activity because if it is true that none of the officials knew about it, then the official who ordered it must be higher than all of them," Biazon said in an interview.

That is why the issue lies squarely on Malacañang, Biazon said.

He said even if the intention was good, the act of bringing and assembling explosives on the plane could no be justified.

'An irresponsible act'

"I will leave it to Malacañang to provide a credible explanation of this to the public because this is an irresponsible act," Biazon said in a phone interview.

Biazon said the person who smuggled the explosives on a flight from Manila to Davao and back should be held criminally liable for bringing explosives that could have killed many innocent people.

But he said the official who ordered such an operation must bear the "heavier responsibility."

"It is his responsibility to come forward and explain this whole thing," Biazon said.

"... This kind of operation cannot be done in such an irresponsible manner," Biazon said.

Washing of hands

He said that because the incident was embarrassing to everyone, he expected a "washing of hands."

Lacson said the test exposed the vulnerability of the country's transport industry to acts of terror.

"Before these officials start blaming (the expert and his boss), they should first look at themselves. They should be thankful someone did it and showed how vulnerable we are," Lacson said.

For good purpose

Lacson said that after the trans-Atlantic terror plot to blow up airplanes was uncovered in Britain, Philippine airport security measures were concentrated on detecting liquid explosives at the risk of overlooking conventional explosives.

Lacson said the expert who carried out the experiment "could really be charged because he had explosives. But his purpose was good."

San Beda, law profs' dispute reaches SC

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE San Beda College of Law administration and a group of disgruntled former professors of the college has reached the Supreme Court.

Twenty professors on Thursday filed a petition asking the high tribunal to look into supposed "anomalies and irregularities" in the academic process that allowed at least six law students to graduate and qualify to take the bar exams.

While the petitioners did not specifically ask the Office of the Bar Confidant to keep the students from taking the bar exams which begin today, and which will be held over the next three Sundays, their arguments cast doubt over the legitimacy of the graduates' qualifications.

"All favorable certifications, approval of school requirements and documents attesting to grades and credits qualifying the recipients for further studies in law which were obtained through the aforesaid irregularities be nullified," they asked in the 39-page petition.

The petitioners questioned why Dean Virgilio Jara allowed the senior students to take removal examinations under different professors after they failed their Political Law Review, Civil Law Review I and Commercial Law Review subjects.

A professor has the option to give a removal exam to a student who fails his subject, usually because of a poor rating in one aspect of the grading system, say the final test, explained Sixto Brilliantes, president of the law school's alumni association.

A student who hurdles a removal test is usually given a passing mark for the subject, he said.

"It's not really the petitioners' intention to hurt the students concerned," Brilliantes told the INQUIRER. "They can take the test. But there is a possibility that their oath-taking, in case they pass, might be held in abeyance until the issue is settled."

In the case of the six students, the petitioners said their removal examinations were "administered by other law professors without the consent of the fourth-year professors who had originally handled the said subjects."

Jara told the INQUIRER he had yet to see a copy of the petition. "We will wait for the decision of the Supreme Court," he said.

The case of the six students allowed to graduate after they took removal exams was the latest point of contention between the former San Beda law professors and the school.

Last summer, the school let go of 26 of its top professors after they signed a petition seeking Jara's ouster. They had earlier questioned the school administration's decision to keep three students who had failed an important academic requirement.

The three students twice failed the subjects Torts and Damages and Political Law Review. School policy prescribes automatic expulsion for such failures unless the dean—for "justifiable reasons"—reverses the ruling.

The disgruntled professors said the school administration had no business meddling in the students' grades, an issue that should be left primarily to the professors concerned.

In a previous interview, San Beda rector Fr. Anscar Chupungco said the professors were just invoking "a kind of autonomy supposedly granted to them ever since."

"That's unacceptable," he told the INQUIRER. "They have the attitude of trying to run the school independent of the authority. The time has come not to tolerate this anymore."

In the petition filed yesterday, 20 of the 26 erstwhile San Beda professors asked the Supreme Court to investigate the alleged irregularities "to determine the accountabilities of those concerned who have debased the quality of education and the legal profession in the country."

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE
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Record number of grads takes bar

By Armand N. Nocum

A RECORD 6,344 GRADUATES from 100 law schools nationwide will take the 2006 bar examinations to be held for four consecutive Sundays this month, starting today, at De La Salle University in Manila.

Apart from the 1,398 court personnel overseeing the exams, bomb disposal experts and police operatives will be providing security, and a medical team will be on standby for the grueling four-week test, arguably the country's toughest licensure examination.

Though the Metro Manila Development Authority has closed off a portion of the street in front of the DLSU campus to control traffic, Ma. Cristina B. Layusa, deputy clerk of court and bar confidant, has advised examinees to report early.

She said the DLSU gates would be open as early as 5 a.m. during the examination days.

Traffic will be closed on that portion of Taft Ave. between Quirino Ave. and Vito Cruz (Pablo Ocampo) St. from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m. on those days.

The Supreme Court, which administers the exams, is implementing for only the second time its "five-strike" rule in the bar exams, which means that a candidate may take the test only four more times if he flunks it the first time.

In 2005, 5,607 graduates took the bar exams, and only 1,526 passed.

Before 2005, the biggest number of examinees was that in 2003, at 5,349.

The smallest number of examinees recorded in the past four years was in 2001 when only 3,849 law graduates took the bar.

In 2002, 4,659 examinees sat for the exams.

A candidate is considered to have passed if he or she obtains a general average of 75 percent in all subjects, without falling below 50 percent in any subject.

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Los Angeles - October 21, 2006
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Students to learn English from Brits

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF FILIPINO ELEMENtary school students will soon begin speaking English with a British accent.

The Department of Education (DepEd) said yesterday it wants to put a radio in every classroom to broadcast voice lessons on English proficiency.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the award-winning modules were produced by the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC). He said the modules were part of the Adopt-a-School program of the department where local government units and the private sector are encouraged to donate funds to improve the quality of education.

The modules are being aired thrice a week over Radyo ng Bayan (dzRB 768 mhz).

"The problem is giving radios to every classroom. We are tapping LGUs for that through their Special Education Fund (SEF) and the public sector. We call on these sectors to help us," said Lapus during a press conference at the DepEd National Office in Pasig City.

"I've heard it (BBC program) and I think it's very good. It's very basic and it will be good for the students. Our expert educators here say it would be good for the teaching of English as a second language," Lapus said.

According to a 1998 law, Lapus said private corporations would be given tax incentives to sponsor the Adopt-a-School program. So far, he said, the private sector has contributed around P2.2 billion to the program.

"We are continuing these programs with more rigor. We want to take these programs on a nationwide scale. Time is of the essence in the strengthening the quality of education," he said. *Alcuin Papa*

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Duterte confirms test of airport security

From page A1

ment."

"Supposedly, this expert was a resource speaker who gave a lecture on antiterrorism in Davao," a source privy to the investigation told the INQUIRER.

The source, who asked not to be named because the probe was still going on, said it was Duterte who invited the expert to speak at the seminar.

"However, it is not yet established if it was the mayor who commissioned the expert to conduct the security check," the source said.

Passenger manifest

The source said that the investigation should include checking the passenger manifest of the Manila-Davao flight on Aug. 14 that the expert said he took when he carried out the covert test.

"The authorities still can't say if there was indeed a security breach," the source said. "That is why they are investigating the incident."

AIRPORT SECURITY: PNP-Aviation Security Group director Chief Supt. Andres Caro demonstrates the new explosives detectors to PNP Director General Oscar Calderon in a recent inspection. JESS YUSON

Officials have maintained that the security check was "unauthorized" and violated the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) procedures.

Because of this, the source said the authorities wanted to know if the expert carried real explosives or a dud.

"If it was a dummy, the X-rays won't pick it up," the source said.

Shoes and jacket

The wire that the expert claimed he brought on board was, however, another matter.

"The security personnel should have seen it or suspected something during inspection," the source said.

The passenger who carried out the test claimed he was able to get past security checks because he hid the bomb components he was carrying in his jacket, shoulder bag, belt and shoes.

The source reiterated that if the explosives were real, the expert could be criminally liable for bringing prohibited items on board an aircraft and for endangering the lives of the passengers and crew.

Lessons to be learned

Still and all, the source said, the investigation was intended more to identify possible shortcomings in security measures being implemented at the Manila domestic airport and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

"The authorities want to correct whatever the flaws are in the security measures. That's also why they want to speak with the expert, so he can give a detailed account of the incident," the source said.

The source said the reported "security breach" could adversely affect the country's economy and tourism industry.

"Tourist arrivals might go down and that could adversely affect our economy," the source said.

In a separate interview, airport chief Alfonso Cusi said the expert and the government agency or official who supposedly commissioned the test had yet to contact him.

Cusi appealed to them to come forward and share with aviation and airport officials the results of the test.

Chief Supt. Andres Caro, director of the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG) asserted that the "security breach" was an assault against Philippine civil aviation security.

"He assailed the security aviation setup even without proof," Caro said in an interview.

Caro added the INQUIRER should have also contacted him before publishing the story to get his side and to determine if indeed a security audit was conducted on Aug. 14.

ICAO manual

"*Pinahiya kami nang walang laban* (We were embarrassed without being given a chance to give our side)," Caro said.

Caro and other airport and aviation officials said that none of the government agencies involved in aviation and security matters were aware of the Aug. 14 security test.

The ICAO Security Manual states that prior to an inspection or audit, "appropriate briefings should be held with the senior managers of the airport or aircraft operator concerned."

The scope and procedure of the audit should be discussed, as well as "specific areas of concern, and the confidentiality of any findings agreed upon."

"Tests will normally be conducted covertly with only the relevant policing authority and those persons necessary to prevent the implementation of full contingency plans that would result in unnecessary disruption to aviation operations being briefed prior to the test," the ICAO said.

The positive side

The Philippines is a contracting state of the ICAO.

Officials have explained that while a state would not be penalized if it does not adopt the ICAO Standard and Recommended Practices (Sarps) for airport security, it runs the risk of having fewer flights from other countries and air carriers from the Philippines could be refused landing rights in other countries.

ICAO-prescribed standards are intended for the safety of flights and security of passengers.

Despite the blow, Caro said officials like him were "taking the incident positively."

"We've again initiated a review of our security procedures," Caro said.

Caro said authorities might conduct a dry run of possible changes in the security setup and deploy additional security measures at the Manila domestic airport.

Keeping the shoes

The mandatory taking off of shoes by travellers on domestic flights was initially proposed but Caro said authorities were still studying its feasibility.

But Caro said that even if he "did not fully agree with the INQUIRER report," it still prompted the ASG, which is tasked to respond to hijackings and terrorism at airports, to brief anew its personnel on their responsibilities.

"We reminded everyone to be diligent, especially in the procedural aspect of the security checks," Caro said.

The usual security measures were being carried out yesterday at the Manila domestic airport.

"I was asked to show my ticket and ID at the initial check and all my bags were placed on the X-ray. And then there was the body frisk," said Mylene Trosino, who was taking a flight to Cebu.

Passengers had to remove their belts, keys, items with metal, and jackets and place them on trays that passed through X-ray machines.

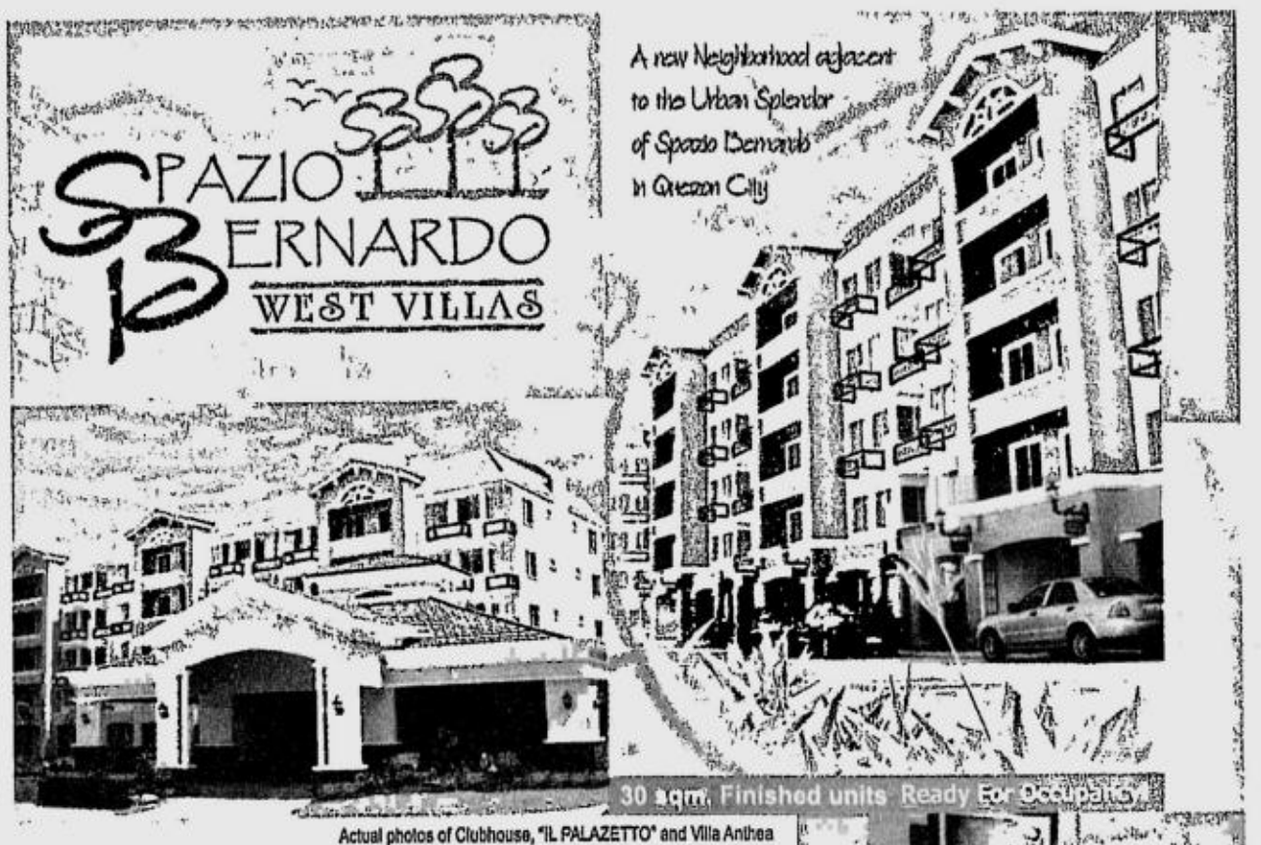
They were asked to place chargers of their cellphones and laptops, batteries, and liquids, gels, toothpaste, creams, and other items of similar consistency in their check-in bags.

"I don't mind if they are strict because it's for our safety," Trosino said.

Cotabato City-bound Ryan Lu, 23, said he didn't mind that the security check on passengers took a long time.

"What's sacrificing a little of your time for your own safety? That's better than putting your life on the line," Lu said.

Lu said even his hand-carried guitar was inspected.



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OUTSTANDING TEACHER awardee Ambeth Ocampo, who is also an INQUIRER columnist, poses with INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and Metrobank Foundation chair George Ty during Friday night's award ceremonies at the Metrobank building in Makati. RUDY ESPERAS

RP's 10 outstanding teachers honored

INQUIRER COLUMNIST AMBETH OCAMPO led the 10 Outstanding Teachers of 2006 chosen by the Metrobank Foundation in a nationwide search for models of excellence in the teaching profession.

The Search for Outstanding Teachers, launched in 1985, is an annual program undertaken by the Metrobank Foundation in coordination with the Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education.

This year's criteria included personal integrity, character, instructional competence and professional and community involvement.

The four elementary, three high school and three college teachers awardees were presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo last Wednesday and were each presented with gold medallions by the President.

The awardees for the elementary level are: Ruth A. Lebes-Gelvezon, Iloilo City; Evelyn M. Kimpo, Banga, Aklan; Editha R. Banguilan, Cabagan. Isabela; and Ofelia L. Lonoza, Lucena, Quezon.

The awardees for the secondary level are: Olivia E. Caling, Ramon Magsaysay High School, Manila; Isabel S. Eman, Calbayog City; and Gelly E. Alkuimo, General Santos City.

Besides Ocampo, who is a professor of history at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City, the other awardees in the higher education category are: Raquel B. del Rosario-Fortun, from the University of the Philippines Manila; and Soledad M. Roguel of the Central Luzon State University in Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija. (They received their prize on Friday.)

Each awardee received P250,000 and a trophy. Their schools were given a plaque of recognition and financial assistance for faculty development.

Mourning . . .

From page A1

A Filipino meteorologist was among the 2,500 astronomers and scientists who deliberated on the fate of Pluto in Prague more than a week ago.

But an early flight schedule and insufficient funds for one more night in Prague meant one less vote for Pluto—now demoted to the status of a dwarf planet by the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

Cynthia Celebre, the country's representative to the IAU's 26th general assembly, was unable to vote because she left in the morning of Aug. 24, hours before voting started.

"If I could have voted, I would not want to remove Pluto as one of the nine classical planets because we would have this dilemma of changing textbooks, which is costly... and because of Pluto's history," said Celebre, chief of the astronomy research and development division of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

She said the redefinition of planets and the subsequent reclassification of Pluto sparked the most passionate discussions during the assembly.

The IAU passed a resolution redefining a planet. Under the new rules, a planet must meet the following criteria: It must orbit the sun, it must have sufficient mass for its gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and it must have cleared the neighborhood around its orbit.

Pluto revolves around the sun, it's round, but it doesn't meet the third condition for a classical planet. Thus, it was classified as a dwarf planet.

"This means that the solar system consists of eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune," the IAU said on its web site, citing resolution 5A.

Heavenly bodies

Founded in 1919, the IAU is the internationally recognized authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies and any surface features on them. It is composed of 8,858 individual members from 85 countries worldwide, of which 62 are national members.

The Philippines has been a national member of the IAU since 2000.

Celebre had been attending IAU assemblies since 1997, but she and Pagasa space science branch chief Bernardo Soriano became individual members only in 2000.

Celebre attended this year's meeting both as a national and an individual member.

As a member of IAU's commission on education, her expenses for the Prague meeting were shouldered by the international organization. Her confirmation of attendance, however, came later than the other participants so the cheaper hotels were all booked, leaving Celebre no choice but to take the more expensive accommodations.

Fully booked

Her hotel—which was walking distance from the Prague Congress Center—cost 73 euros (P4,750) a night.

"It was so expensive. I did not expect it. But the cheaper hotels were already booked," Celebre said.

And because of the limited flight schedule, she missed the opening and closing ceremonies. She left Prague at 9:30 a.m. on the day of the voting.

Although Celebre was unable to vote on the fate of Pluto, she was able to vote—along with the entire 2,500 representatives in attendance—on the scientific issues, including the definition of a planet.

She said it was the first time that individual members, not just national representatives, were allowed to vote on a major issue because the results would affect scientific knowledge all over the whole world.

Like Congress

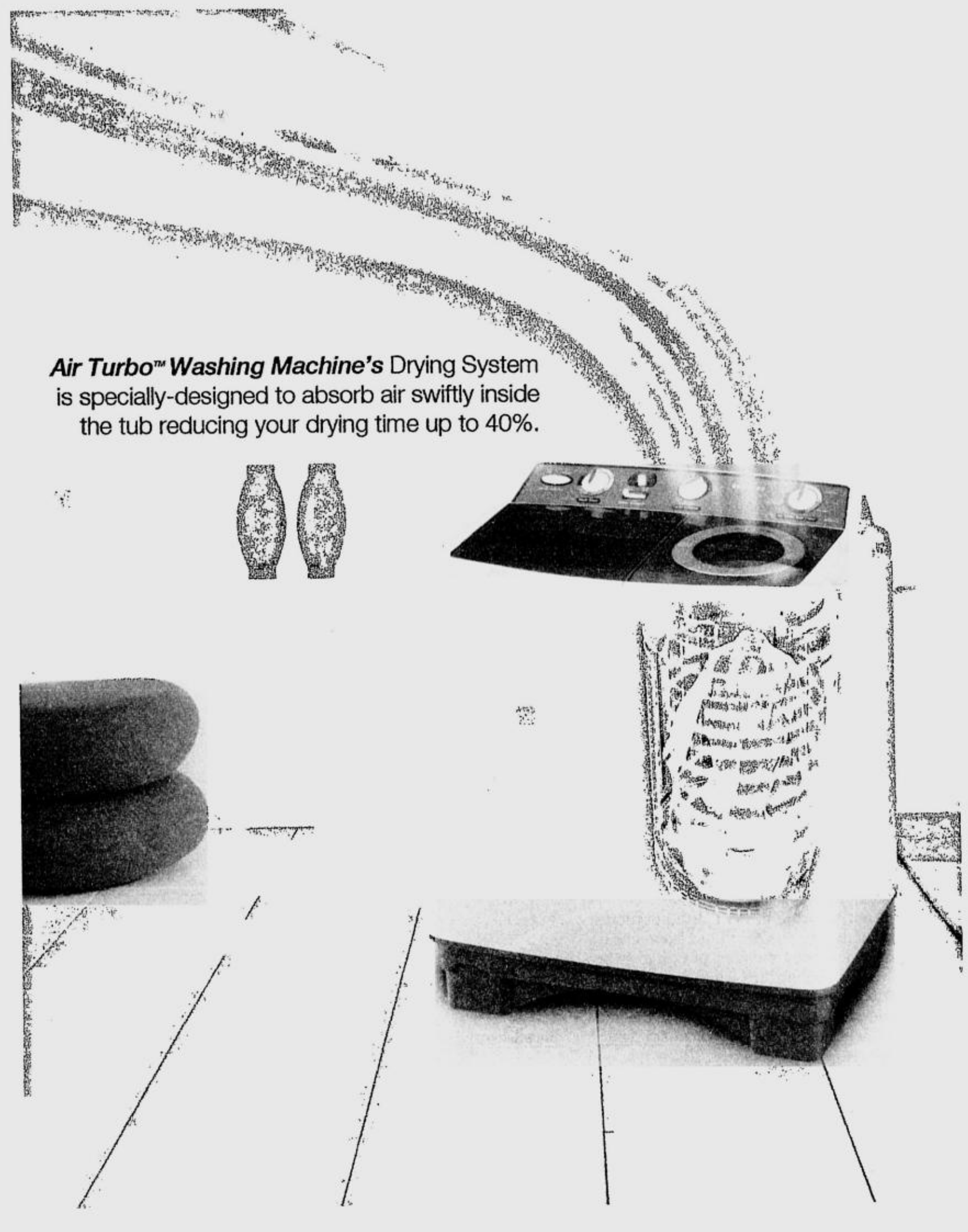
She described the plenary deliberations during general assemblies, which are held every three years, as "just like Congress here," although the venue was a bit smaller than the Araneta Coliseum.

"The author of the bill would stand and explain and we would vote," Celebre said.

Voting was usually done by a raising of hands, she added.

Celebre said the biggest challenge facing the Philippines now was how to disseminate the new scientific fact that Pluto is no longer part of the solar system. Science textbooks would have to be updated.

"We have to produce the books now. The earlier the better, so it would not be too hard for the children to learn this new fact," she said.



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OPINION

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Finally, police protection

WHEN LOCAL BUSINESSMEN RAISED A HOWL recently over the continuing extortion spree of the New People's Army, both Malacañang and Camp Aguinaldo had harsh words for them. By **them** we mean not the NPA rebels, but the businessmen who are victims of the extortion.

Charges will be filed against those caught giving money to the communist insurgency, Palace officials and Armed Forces spokesmen said, as though—to use a familiar analogy—the way to stop kidnappings was to run after the victims who pay ransom.

EDITORIALS

Now, contrast this blinkered approach with the eyes-wide-open stance of the Philippine National Police. Yes, you read that right: On the level of official policy, the PNP follows a much more enlightened and (we believe the events will eventually bear this out) more effective strategy.

The police, PNP Chief Oscar Calderon said last week, will readily offer protection to businessmen under NPA threat. "We are open [to them] reporting to us, if they are victims of extortions by the NPA, and we will guarantee their protection."

Perhaps **guarantee** is too wide a promise, but at least the police have their priorities right. Calderon called on businessmen-victims to provide the PNP with "the necessary information, like who are the collectors, when is the collection time, so we could conduct proper operations against these people."

The aim is true—to "neutralize these groups"—but the PNP's hand will be perceived by many to be unsteady. Thus, Calderon has his work cut out for him, in restoring public confidence in both the character and the capacity of the police force. But at least he is starting from the right premise. The victims of extortion not only deserve the State's protection; they can also serve as the State's willing partners.

De-serving

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDUARDO ERMITA HAS apparently warmed to his unofficial role as the avuncular spokesman of the Arroyo administration; now he speaks on almost all matters garrulously, without even thinking—or, perhaps, the better word is caring—about the consequences. Like any other raconteur, however, the old hand in the Palace—a former general, a former congressman, a former defense secretary, a former peace czar—ends up repeating familiar patterns in his storytelling.

Take his backhanded compliment of Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales, who denounced the New People's Army's practice of extorting money from harassed local businessmen. (The lawmaker is no Etta-come-lately to the issue; two years ago, for instance, at the height—or the depths—of the 2004 election season, she denounced the NPA's levy of so-called permit-to-campaign fees. At that time, the Arroyo administration was, how shall we say this, supporting the campaign of another party-list group.)

Ermita lauded Rosales' privilege speech, which attacked the NPA's "gangsterism," but then went on to prod the left-of-center representative and her colleagues to "make more concrete measures" to show their seriousness. The Little President seems to be confusing today's present constitutional set-up—where the power to make laws is distinct and separate from the power to execute them—with the parliamentary system the administration desires.

But Ermita did not stop there. He then unburdened himself of the following confession: "But I have always considered her as a deserving member of Congress because she sees the NPA's actions for what they are—human rights violations." Apparently, the Arroyo administration has discovered a new executive power in the middle of its crisis of legitimacy: the power to say which politician deserves to be in Congress. (Silly us, we thought that power belonged to the people.)

In the exercise of its newfound power, the administration, speaking through Ermita, apparently defines a "deserving member of Congress" as one who shares its view of the communist insurgency. But what happens when—and it is certainly only a matter of when, not if—Rosales again criticizes the administration Ermita represents for its lack of accountability, its continuing evasiveness? Will she—and others like her—suddenly become undeserving of the seats in Congress they won in fairly contested elections?

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The right to criticize

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE IS INHERENT in every person and is recognized as included in the freedom of expression guaranteed by the Constitution. It is as powerful as the right to agree, perhaps more so because it keeps democracy alive and not a mere conformist regime of automatic assenters.

When Sen. Joseph McCarthy began his communist witch-hunt that ruined many reputations in the United States during the '50s, the US Senate reacted sharply, albeit rather belatedly, and formally censured him. His constituents in Wisconsin followed suit in their disgust and consigned him to a well-deserved disgrace.

The Watergate scandal would never have been exposed were it not for the courage of two reporters from the Washington Post who dared criticize the then majority Republican Party and their sitting President of the United States. If the press had simply kept docilely quiet, Nixon would have remained in office to commit further misdeeds.

Susan B. Anthony complained against the treatment of women as second-class citizens and joined the campaign for their right to vote. She was convicted of voting illegally, fined $100 she refused to pay, and persisted in her right to criticize her detractors. In the end, women suffrage was granted by the 19th Amendment of the US Constitution.

It is not only in political matters that the right to criticize is important. It may also be exercised in civic, moral, financial and other issues affecting the public welfare.

John Scopes was prosecuted in 1925 for teaching the theory of evolution in the Bible belt of the United States. He was derided and physically threatened for his right to question the worshipful story of Adam and Eve. Despite his brilliant defense by Clarence Darrow, he was convicted for his then unconventional beliefs that are now accepted throughout the world.

Some views are generally held by the public but are not openly expressed because of fear of retaliation from their prickly subjects. Even supposedly free newspapers are intimidated and toe the line of discreet silence. Or they may even assist the angry "victims" and accommodate them with shrill publicity, to the prejudice of their well-intentioned critics.

In a healthy democracy, controversy is encouraged, not avoided. But the media, while they should not remain neutral, must not forget their responsibility of balanced reporting. They should not allow themselves to be daunted by the noisier side with its threats and vituperation. What they should understand but refuse to accept is that the other side may be the silent majority.

It is silent because it fears the wrath of the vindictive minority. The objections will be based supposedly on high principles of human rights, decency and equality before the law. But it is in reality a malignant opposition that refutes ideas with name-calling.

I often dissented from my colleagues on the Supreme Court and one of them even described me as "coddling criminals." I took his accusation in good grace because I knew it was made without malice or rancor. I did not scream and faint like a woman spurned.

As a columnist in this paper, I have written on many controversial subjects and expressed ideas not to court public agreement but to invite healthy debate. My feelings are familiar to many of my readers and, while sometimes provocative, are never evil-minded or discourteous.

I have criticized the President of the Philippines and the Cabinet, the members of Congress, the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Commissions, the military, local officials, actors turned politicians, the entertainment industry, fashion shows, the conversion of farmlands into golf courses, and other matters relevant to the public welfare. My views have mostly been received agreeably, some resentfully but politely, others silently, but in every case respectfully.

That is why I felt challenged when I was attacked with feline ferocity for criticizing those homosexuals (and only them) who by their vulgarity were demeaning their class in general. Many of them contradicted me not with ideas but with venom. They called me an asshole, an old fart, a bigot, a hate-monger, a neo-Nazi and other typical endearments.

Fortunately, their more vicious letters did not see print in the INQUIRER, which nonetheless published eight attacks against me compared to only one in my defense. Its editorial of Aug. 21 was also clearly in their favor.

A letter from Germany, published in this paper's website but not in the more accessible broadsheet, was from a reader who said he did not have anything against homosexuals. But he added that he could not accept the sight of persons of the same sex publicly kissing each other on the lips. That is the common sentiment of the silent majority in this country who are afraid to speak up as I did.

Matters of the heart

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE TOLD ME HOW SCANDALIZED he was when he saw a man light up a cigarette inside the church during a Mass. In fact, he said, he was so shocked that he almost dropped the bottle of beer he was drinking!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 7, 1-8; 14-15; 21-23), we are told that the Pharisees and Scribes were scandalized by the failure of the disciples of Jesus to follow the Jewish tradition of purifying themselves before a meal. They got the shock of their lives when Jesus branded as hypocrites those who disregarded God's law by clinging to human traditions. Here was a man who stood up against authority for the sake of truth. Jesus was no coward. He knew the formidable powers He was fighting against but He fought on, because truth was on His side.

* * *

Law and tradition are supposed to perpetuate the truth, but in fact, law and tradition can muddle and hide the truth. And so it is that a lot of sins and folly are committed in the name of law and tradition, and a lot of evildoers hide under the skirt of law and tradition. That is why, even in this our present day and time, we need prophets who question law and tradition.

* * *

"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." God sees the heart, more than human precepts and traditions. Let us not belittle the heart, and matters of the heart. Let us not trample upon people's hopes, dreams and rights in the name of law, order, duty and tradition. The law is the law, yes, but the heart is the heart, too.

* * *

The oil tanker that sank off Guimaras island, spewing out poison for our environment should be a clear reminder to us of what Jesus is saying today that "things that come out from within are what defile." The oil spill has not only defiled, but has wrought so much destruction to our environment. Let us all be reminded, too, that we may not spill dirt as we go through life. Is your life "one big oil spill" affecting so many innocent and helpless people?

* * *

What do you scatter and litter—and leave behind—as you pass by? At the end of our lives, I hope we will not be haunted with the thought that a lot of people have, are and will be suffering because of our misdeeds. In other words, let us not leave trash and garbage behind us.

* * *

Leaders, given their influence and power, have the greater responsibility to watch out that they do not cause an ugly oil spill that could diminish the lives of those whom they claim to serve. To those leaders, I appeal: Remember how many people's lives you affect. Please do not create a mess, and do not leave behind your wastes for others to bear and live with, and to clean up.

* * *

Come to think of it, keeping the earth clean all boils down to simple toilet manners: We must think of people who come after us. We must make sure we do not leave our markings and stench behind. This world is not ours. This country is not ours. You and I are just passing by.

* * *

Sept. 8 is Mama Mary's birthday. This woman was aware of her simple role in life, and she did it, humbly and without ostentation. She, who experienced much pressing and crushing in her lifetime, left behind a sweet scent that rises up to heaven above. Let us learn to be like her and to spread sweet fragrance in our lifetime.

* * *

By the way, dentists tell us that one of the major causes of bad breath is tooth decay. Clean the decaying tooth or all together remove it, and fresh breath will be restored. In the same way, one of the major causes of a bad society is truth decay. Restore truth, uphold truth, remove the untruthful and we will have a fresh start, new beginning and we can really move on.

* * *

Before you sleep tonight, take a good look at what is within you. Focus not on what you have around you or what you have amassed outside you, but look inside your heart. Is there peace as the day ends? Are there people who really love you and whom you really love? Is there contentment from knowing that you are not living an empty and vain life? Is there serenity that you are living a life that is pleasing to God? You may have problems, you may have pressures and concerns, but if you can answer "yes" to the questions above, congratulations! You know what Jesus is talking about, that indeed, in the final analysis, what matters is the heart, and matters of the heart. If you don't understand that, precisely, it is because there's too much of law and tradition in your life.

* * *

Inviting you for a pilgrimage to Naju, Korea this coming Nov. 12-17, 2006. For particulars, please call 721-7457 or 913-0388; 911-1394; 0921-2866810.

* * *

In times of trouble, prayer gives us relief by entrusting our worries to the Almighty Father. A lot of people are suffering; let us pray for them, too. Get daily suggestions of prayer, text ON PRAYER to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that the heart, and matters of the heart, matter. Amen.

A fresh approach

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST WEEK, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT announced the replacement of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, which is based in Central Luzon. Palparan, whose assignment to other areas in the country almost always brought about charges of military abuses and extrajudicial killings of Left-leaning groups, will be leaving the service on Sept. 11 upon reaching the mandatory age for retirement of military officers. Palparan will be replaced by Brig. Gen. Juanito P. Gomez, a low-profile Army veteran whose stint as 302nd Infantry Brigade chief in Bohol has been described as a "success story" because, it is said, he helped bring about the transformation of the province from being one of the poorest to one of the more affluent in the country today.

The incoming 7th Infantry Division commander is the son of a Philippine Constabulary enlisted man who retired in 1976 as a master sergeant. Gomez was born on March 24, 1952 in a Constabulary camp in Iligan City, one of the many assignments of his father who served most of the time in Mindanao. After finishing the advance ROTC course at Mindanao State University, Gomez received a direct commission in October 1974. It signaled the start of a military career that has taken him up the ladder of command to his present rank of brigadier general. His wife Milagros is a retired military nurse. They have two sons.

It was his record in Bohol which brought Gomez to the attention of defense and AFP officials. His ability to work with local officials in gaining the support of the community resulted in reducing the influence of NPA elements in the province, at times leading to the surrender of armed insurgents. The black propaganda which appears to have hounded Palparan wherever he was assigned did not seem to undermine the work of Gomez in building cooperation between the security forces and the local people. In the words of Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, "under Brigadier General Gomez, the soldiers in Bohol acted as tourism promoters; they were like tourism personnel." For a province with so much to offer in terms of tourist attractions, this kind of environment was an important factor in bringing about the benefits of a vigorous tourist promotion program. From just over a hundred thousand visitors some years back, Bohol now attracts more than a million tourists each year.

Incidentally, one cannot minimize the importance of tourism in our country. It is a major foreign exchange earner, promoting vital investments and stimulating the growth of industries like construction and manufacturing, and it serves as a major source of employment. Last year, tourism officials reported earnings of more than P1.7 billion from visitor arrivals.

My late father, Modesto Farolan, who is acknowledged as "the father of Philippine tourism," used to sing the praises of Bohol's Chocolate Hills and predicted that one day it would become a major tourist attraction for the country. Recently, the Bohol Beach Club served as a destination for visiting New Zealand Premier Helen Clark.

Going back to Gomez, Gov. Erico Aumentado of Bohol acknowledged the work of Gomez when he informed his successor, Col. Arthur Tabaquero, that he faced a "tall order" in maintaining the gains made by Gomez.

Now Gomez has to show the people of Central Luzon that he, too, can win them over to the side of the government. His strategy remains the same as in Bohol—working with local officials and supporting their development plans for the community in order to help reduce poverty. His tactical operations will go hand in hand with civil-military initiatives aimed at gaining the confidence and support of the populace. We are facing an insurgency and until a national ID system is in place, we will have to devise an acceptable manner of monitoring the movements of people without making life more difficult for them.

In the case of Palparan, someone made this observation. Wherever he operated, he was painted as a brutal administrator. One could say that this was mostly NPA propaganda. But the fact remains that in many instances, local officials failed to come to his defense, making it difficult to blunt NPA accusations. Perhaps, the strategy of Gomez in seeking the support of local officials will serve to reverse perceptions of military abuses in Central Luzon.

* * *

Other "Medal for Valor" awardees: The two oldest Medal for Valor awardees are Maj. Gen. Paulino Santos from the PC class of 1914 and Maj. Gen. Mariano Castañeda, class of 1915. Santos was cited for leading an assault on some 500 outlaws in a well-fortified *cotta* (fort) near Bayang, on the shores of Lake Lanao. The attack resulted in the death of some 30 of the outlaws; Santos sustained an almost fatal wound at the back of his head.

In the case of Castañeda, he was with President Manuel Roxas, who was delivering a speech, in Plaza Miranda, Quiapo when someone threw a hand grenade in the direction of the President. The grenade landed on the speaker's platform and rolled toward Roxas and other officials. Castañeda, with coolness and presence of mind, kicked the grenade away from the platform saving the lives of President Roxas, his family and other high-ranking government officials.

The two youngest awardees are 2nd Lt. Herbert Dilag, PMA class of 1998 and Maj. Cirilito E. Sobejana, class of 1987. Both officers were cited for heroic actions against Abu Sayyaf kidnap gangs.

Food for comfort

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN TIMES OF DISTRESS, WE FILIPINOS TURN to each other, to family, and to food for comfort. Maybe, this is the reason wakes, which are as much community activities (especially in the rural areas) as they are religious or familial rituals, are fueled by food. No matter if the wake is held on an alley, with a lively game of *sakla* or *mahjong* on the side, or in a funeral parlor or memorial chapel—mourners need to be sustained by a never-ending stream of food and a river of coffee.

And count on Filipinos to attach superstitions to food serving and imbibing at a wake, which are about as many as there are around death. The No. 1 taboo is that one should never take home food from a wake, the belief being that one would be bringing home "death."

For what it's worth, I happen to believe that there's greater evil in letting food go to waste, and so I had no compunction about bringing home a pack of *ensaymada* on the first night of my brother's wake. My sisters were horrified, but I had my heart set on having the sweet buns for breakfast. Early the next morning, we got news that my husband's sister had passed away in the States. I ate the *ensaymada* anyway, though with a heavy heart and a newfound respect for folk beliefs.

Another superstition is that the immediate family should not go around serving food to the mourners. I remember during my mother's wake my aunts admonishing me to put down the tray of snacks I was passing around and just sit down and chat, which was actually the last thing I wanted to do because if I had to tell the story of how Mama died suddenly one more time, I would have run out of there screaming.

* * *

ASTONISHING is how family members, friends and workmates came bearing gifts of food without being asked. Aside from bags of Boy Bawang, *butong pakwan*, seedless *kiamoy*, peanuts and donuts, people came with *suman* and *kakanin*, colorful *bilaos* of *sapin-sapin*, *siopao* and *buchi*, varieties of *pancit*, even a basket of hard-boiled eggs.

Our Jimenez cousins quickly organized a schedule for "sponsored" dinners, serving *arroz caldo*, *puto pao*, barbecue, *pasta* and other vittles. My sister-in-law Soc's siblings stepped in with *adobo*, fried chicken and *menudo*. My brother's officemates from PLDT said they would sponsor one night of the novena, which was also capped by a memorial service filled with tales touching and hilarious.

When our turn came, the hubby decided that he would honor Nono's memory with a huge cauldron of pancit molo, which was a staple contribution of ours to family dinners. We paired this with *puto* and *lumpiang togue*, which had fast become a clan favorite, ordered from my friend Peachy's cook Esther. When we tried to pay for the *lumpia*, Peachy gently but firmly turned down the offer.

For the ninth day of prayers, Soc turned to a caterer's services, but supplemented the fare with food brought in by my cousin Lulu all the way from Alaminos, Pangasinan: the town's famous *longganisa*, pork cutlets called "*parad*," and boneless *bangus*, which Nono had requested from Lulu when he was still in the hospital.

* * *

TWO days later, we held the ninth day of prayers for Nene, my husband's sister, in our home. Pie decided he would cook *morcon*, from a family recipe handed down from father to son and which had been Nene's favorite. He also ended up cooking *paella*, when he found the commercial varieties either too meager or too expensive for his taste.

After some thought, we decided to supplement these with *pritchon*, fried bits of roasted pork wrapped in *lumpia* wrapper with *kinchay* and spring onions, which we ordered from Sisig House in Tiendesitas. The mini-rolls come with three sauces—*lechon*, *hoisin* and garlic *mayo*—and are always a hit with our guests.

We had planned to order some dishes from Sun Wah (now called Wah Sun), the David family's favorite restaurant in Chinatown, but Pie nixed the idea considering how far the food would have to travel from downtown Manila. Instead, we had the driver pick up *bilaos* of *pancit* Tonang from Mandaluyong, another family favorite. Soc also volunteered a fish mold salad, but by the time I reached the buffet table, the fish platter had been wiped clean.

For dessert, I suggested the luscious frozen mango torte from Dulcelin, which also has a booth in Tiendesitas, together with *leche flan* from Soc, my sister-in-law Belle's "*walang kamatayang*" fruit salad, and items from "Saltine."

* * *

I DECIDED, as my own contribution to the feast, to try out Saltine, which I had read about in Lucy Torres Gomez's column in the Star. Tippy Tambunting of Saltine proved to be an accommodating supplier, quickly faxing me her bill of fare. I ended up ordering luscious patties, which are like big *empanadas* with various fillings, both regular and "sugar-free" versions of lemon squares, and a cake that Tippy calls "Enganos," with a custard filling and topped with chocolate sauce and shaved almonds.

Saltine also offers pasta sauces and dips, which I intend to try out in the very near future.

As must be obvious by now, food for us is not just a source of nourishment and sustenance, but also a way of remembering and honoring the deceased. We like to imagine them basking in the conviviality and concord that rise like mist every time people gather around a table groaning with food. We toast to their memory and to the memories we hold of them. I like to believe that Nono and Nene, who both loved gathering people about them, would have heartily approved of the copious amounts of food that friends and family partook of even as we prayed for their peaceful repose.

We take comfort where we can—and bearing blissful bellies from our food-filled remembrances brings comfort and calories, as well as transcendence.

Systems and people

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THERE IS SOMETHING PERVERSE IN THE WAY the leaders of Sigaw ng Bayan are peddling the shift to a parliamentary system. They advertise it as if it were a miraculous cure for all our problems. They claim that it will treat political instability and end political adventurism among our soldiers; that it will spur economic development, end poverty and bring back our overseas workers to their families, etc. One can recite the many advantages of the parliamentary system, but no existing studies of parliamentary governments can support these extravagant claims.

The success of any system of government basically depends on the readiness of a people to make it work as it is supposed to work in theory. Even the "best" system is likely to be corrupted by bad politicians and immature voters. But, on the other hand, a system that has proved dysfunctional in some countries may produce good outcomes in others.

A society's leaders and citizens are shaped by a myriad of factors. Some of these are cultural and economic; others are ecological. Some are deeply rooted in a society's past, while others are responses to the exigencies of contemporary times. No single perspective is capable of showing why the leaders and citizens of a nation are the way they are. Thus, no scientific theory can presume to tell a people what model of government is good for them. Only politics can settle that question for any nation.

Every society must strive to find out, through trial and error, what mode of governance is best for itself at a given stage of its development. Because all institutions ultimately draw their nourishment from the instincts of the people, a nation's institutions must be periodically adjusted to reflect the people's growth over time.

For better or worse, our American colonizers left us a legacy of democratic forms, which perhaps were far too advanced for the kind of society we had at that time. The great inequality that, from the start, marked our society promoted patterns of patronage and dependence in various spheres of Filipino life. These feudal practices contradict the democratic ethos embodied in our modern institutions. We have lived with this schizophrenia—this split between our culture and our formal institutions—for over a hundred years now. The result of this has been a type of democracy that is not found anywhere else. It prominently features American jurisprudence and American constitutionalism in the conduct of our official affairs, but induces a willful blindness to the outrageous realities produced by the gross disparity in wealth and opportunity.

It is the non-recognition of this disparity and of the complex adaptations it breeds that lies at the root of the governance deficit in our country today. Corruption and patronage are nurtured in the soil of excessive wealth and absolute poverty. The basic problem of our country today is not the form of government but the obsolete political-economic structure that has consigned the vast masses of our people to a life without hope.

This is not simply a matter of confronting economic stagnation, and choosing the right economic strategy. It is, more importantly, an issue of social distribution, and ensuring the fulfillment of the people's basic needs. One should not separate the development of the country from the development of its people, or encourage the attainment of personal growth at the expense of the nation's long-term development.

It is this delicate balancing of private goals with public interests—rather than the clash between political liberty and economic prosperity—that poses the biggest challenge to our way of life today. One does not need to turn to social theory, to see that there is something wrong with a society that exports thousands of its doctors and nurses every year even as it fails to provide medical care to more than half of its population. Or, sends abroad millions of young parents to work as servants in foreign homes while their own children grow up alone. Similarly, there must be something equally perverse about a national policy that allots a third of the government's annual budget to debt payments, while leaving the nation's children to go hungry and pursue learning in overcrowded classrooms.

Clearly, one does not have to be a very rich nation to be able to take care of the minimum needs of one's people, especially of the young generation. Cuba is certainly much poorer than the Philippines in terms of resources and level of economic development. But today it ranks among the top 25 countries in the world with the highest life expectancy. Its health care system is comparable to what is found in the most developed countries. But on top of this, 28,600 Cuban health professionals today work in 71 different countries, mostly in Africa, as part of this socialist nation's international missions. Since 1961, Cuban universities have opened their doors to more than 45,000 students from poor countries who have come for specialized training in the various sciences and professions. Yet, this is the same small country of 11 million people that the United States has tried to bully and isolate through an economic embargo and, for the last half century, to subvert and convert to US-style democracy.

What system will work? A nation has to examine its own goals and priorities before it can answer this question. To do otherwise is to engage in fruitless debate.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Payback

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

I HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT I OWE A DEBT OF gratitude to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. "Some degree of gratitude," must be due to the fact that I spent my college life in the University of the Philippines. I apologize for my omission, and can think of no way more apt than to share what he calls the "world-class education" that I have acquired in the four years I spent in UP. I will attempt to do justice to the underpaid and overworked professors who teach with ancient blackboards where today's lectures are superimposed over diagrams from three years before. If I cannot, perhaps the good secretary would be interested in taking the class I took in my freshman year—Philo 11: Introduction to Logic.

In a statement just this week, Gonzalez laments the decline in quality of UP graduates. "That school," he thunders, "breeds the destabilizers that haunt the country every year."

In the interest of clarity, let us define the word "destabilizer." A destabilizer, or an obstructionist, is one who deliberately chooses to oppose current norms. They mistrust much of what is claimed, perpetually demand for answers and admit only truths that they believe have basis in fact, logic, theory, precedence or their own personal standards. In the academe, however, they are called neither destabilizers nor obstructionists. The common word for these vile creatures is "scholar."

The reason students are sent to school is not to learn how to parrot government memoranda, or memorize the capitals of provinces in alphabetical order. Students study to learn how to think—not just to acquire a sheet of printed parchment to post on the wall. The capacity for critical thought is what separates the man from the beast. A dog can be trained how to sit, a monkey can walk across a tightrope, but it is the man who can choose to stand up and speak.

Contrary to what Gonzalez believes, it is not opposition to the government that characterizes the UP scholar. It is the opposition to passive acceptance, and a compulsion for thought. Gonzalez claims that he is not against all UP students, God forbid, because there are some who are "bright and good." I assume he means those of us who do not rally, who do not march, who do not choose to side with the Left. By "bright and good," he means "bright and good to the government of GMA."

"It is the people's taxes that is keeping UP alive," he claims. Agreed. "It is the State that is paying for their schooling." Agreed. "I think some degree of gratitude should be there also." Agreed.

There is a difference, however, between the State and Secretary Gonzalez. He is not the State, however much he tries to convince us. Neither is the government of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The State is the people, the debt is to the people, the gratitude is to those who paid their taxes in the hope that the country's best and brightest will do some good in the future.

The academe, more than anywhere else, is the hotbed of debate, a place where multiple perspectives clash, and every sort of ideology, theory and philosophy has a place. Disagreement is a norm, and is seen as a manifestation of critical thought. That UP breeds destabilizers is not a bad thing—after all, if stability means the kind of government we have today, then I stand for destabilization, too. All of us agree on our debt to the country—all of us want to pursue the national interest. But because we are scholars, because we are taught to think, the manner we pursue that national interest and the definition of that national interest vary from student to student. The red-shirted activist in Mendiola is no less aware of that debt than the political science student who plans to join government.

This need to check the government, Gonzalez claims, "is degrading the national interest." Who defines national interest? To Gonzalez, certainly not the people, and certainly not those who have been shot, strangled and maimed because of the administration's relentless pursuit of national interest.

Democracy is not the absence of dissent; it is the tolerance of the freedom to dissent, and the awareness that dissent can check the State's enormous power. And still **Justice** Secretary Gonzales, in all smugness, demands that this "high tolerance to educational freedom," should be raised in the annual budget hearing. I cannot believe I live in a country where education is threatened because it is used.

This is not simply an issue of an old man trying to strut his machismo by aiming potshots at students. It may be hard to believe—as this is the man who, I have a sneaking suspicion, is the opposition's hired gun, the man who "forgave" Susan Roces because she was "too pretty to put in jail," the man who told former President Aquino to first take care of her controversial daughter Kris before she opposes GMA; and the same man who claimed that the only reason he didn't absolve three suspects in the Subic Bay rape case was that he had to "appease the mob." He is the man whose snappy comeback to the impromptu Oblation Run held a week ago was to ask the fraternity men to "take off your masks and run naked."

But irrelevant of the man, his denouncement of UP is an attempt—no matter how moronic, and no matter how laughable—to justify actions that would otherwise be unjustifiable. It is one of the dozens of persistent suggestions that the government is always on the side of right, that to oppose it is treachery and that to question it is to go against all standards of morality, honesty and patriotism. And all this is dangerous, at a time when people are tired of marching in the streets, tired of throwing out one corrupt leader after another, tired of the perpetual struggle for the rights and freedoms that are inexplicably being curtailed.

The government thrusts us back into the Dark Ages, where leaders are omnipotent and "the people" do not exist. Right is right, and wrong is wrong, and probing into the nature of the "enemy" is assumed to be support for the enemy. Those who oppose policies are "destabilizers," or "NPA sympathizers" or "oppositionists." To report truth that will compromise government approval ratings is "inciting to sedition," a crime of which Gonzalez once accused the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. "Why fight the State?" Gonzalez demands, "Why try to bring it down?"

Gonzalez claims that he is proud to say he is from the University of Sto. Tomas, and that it is the reason he is "well-behaved." I offer my sympathies to UST, and since I am also aware that there is much that is "bright and good"' in that school, I believe Gonzalez must be a case where good education has failed in creating an educated man.

If this man is the epitome of what it is to be well-behaved, I'm glad that that's a compliment I've never been paid.

* * *

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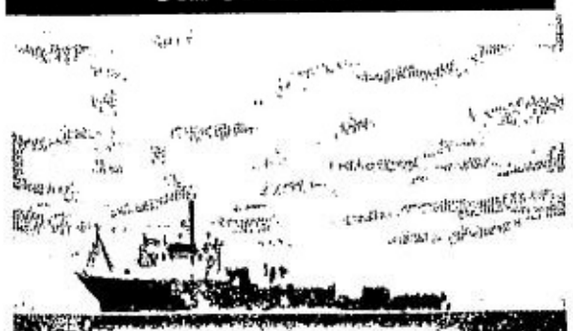
TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

COST OF GUIMARAS OIL SPILL

OIL SPILL SITE



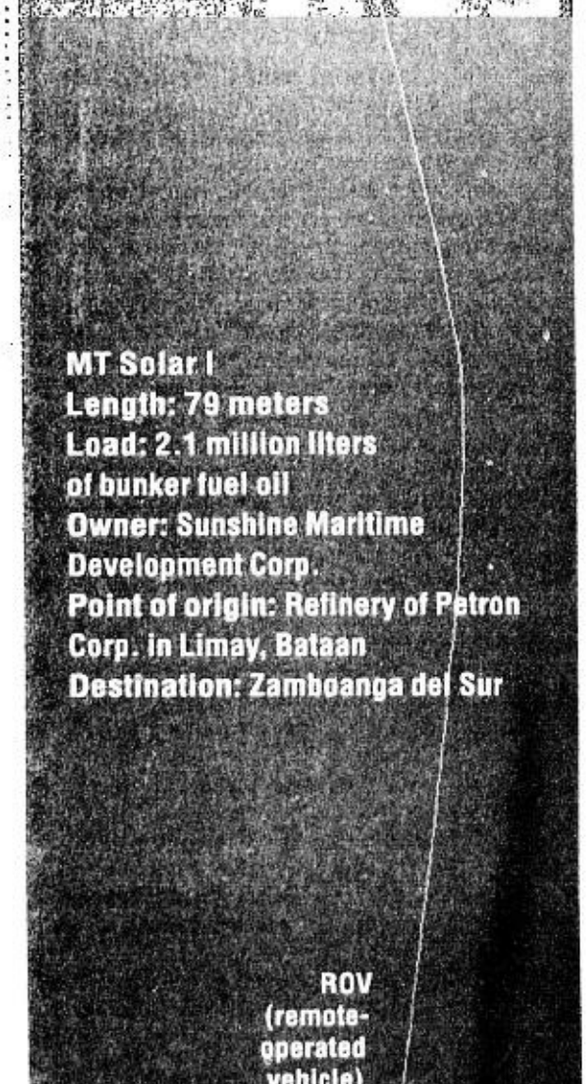
Japanese survey vessel Mt Shinsei Maru locates the sunken oil tanker MT Solar I

23.4 km
off Barangay La Paz in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras

Latitude:
10 degrees
15 minutes
31 seconds north

Longitude:
122 degrees
29 minutes
13.3 seconds east

Depth:
640 meters



MT Solar I
Length: 79 meters
Load: 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel oil
Owner: Sunshine Maritime Development Corp.
Point of origin: Refinery of Petron Corp. in Limay, Bataan
Destination: Zamboanga del Sur

ROV (remote-operated vehicle)

OIL LEAKED:

1.3 million liters according to a science undersecretary

200,000-300,000 liters according to the Philippine Coast Guard

MT Solar I sank on Aug. 11 at around 4:10 p.m.

BUNKER FUEL OIL OOZING from a sunken tanker off Guimaras Island has affected large swaths of Western Visayas, making it the biggest oil spill in the country.

To the poor dependent on the sea for their livelihood, the spill has brought economic disaster. Women have stopped gathering shells while men have not gone out fishing in the badly hit areas of Guimaras. The oil spill has also brought sickness to residents.

Damage to the environment goes beyond the hundreds of hectares of marine reserve and mangroves, and kilometer upon kilometer of shoreline smothered with black sludge.

The spill has killed wildlife like birds, turtles and sea snakes. It now threatens dugongs, dolphins, blue crabs, giant clams and other life forms in the Guimaras Strait and Visayan Sea.

100 km to 220 km Tainted coastline

1,100 ha Spoiled marine reserve

454 ha Mangroves smothered with oil

26,000 People affected in Guimaras

136 Families (400 residents) evacuated from the villages of La Paz and Cabalagnan in Nueva Valencia town, Guimaras (as of Aug. 29)

3 and 4 Towns affected in Guimaras and Iloilo, respectively

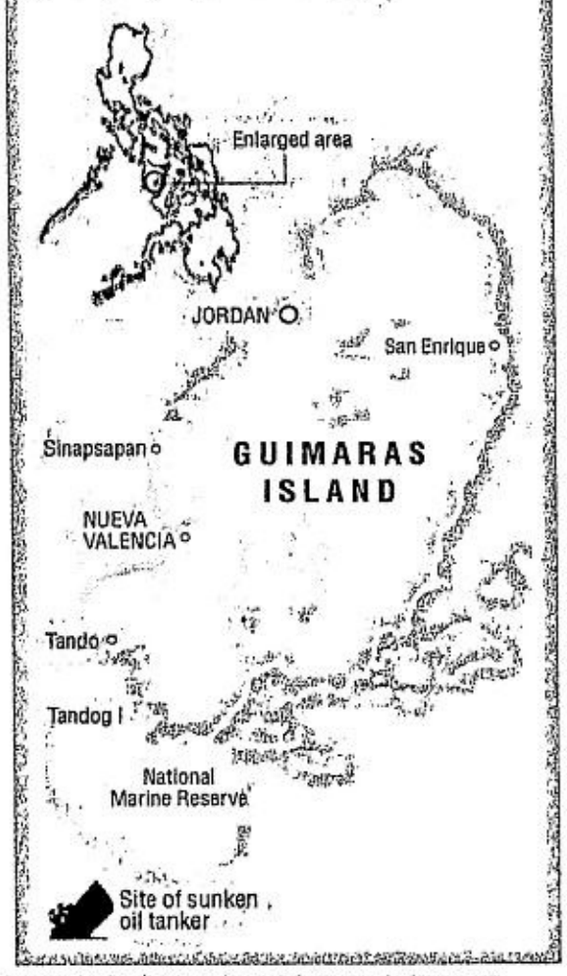
10,000 Fisher folk bereft of daily income totaling between P3 million and P5 million

P57 million Worth of destroyed marine resources in fish cages and fish pens, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

P50 million Losses in shrimp industry in Pulupandan, Negros Occidental

P50 million Losses in anchovy industry in Valladolid, Negros Occidental

P3.57 million Foregone revenue from tourism in Guimaras from Aug. 11 to Aug. 27



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PNP chief: End 'jueteng' this month

HAZEL P. VILLA/INQUIRER VISAYAS

SERENITY
Boats carrying traps for crabs had to stay docked at the beach of Naoway Island in Guimaras as the massive oil spill from a tanker carrying bunker fuel for Petron sank and leaked millions of cubic meters of oil into Guimaras waters. Marine products from the province were adversely affected by reports on the oil spill.

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—DIRECTOR General Oscar Calderon, Philippine National Police chief, wants the illegal numbers game jueteng "totally stopped" in Luzon by this month.

Calderon set this deadline during a closed-door conference here on Friday night with seven regional directors and the chiefs of the police's intelligence and criminal investigation units, two INQUIRER sources present in the meeting said.

The meeting, held at a villa in Mimosa, was called on the eve of President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Nueva Ecija for the province's founding anniversary.

The meeting also took place less than a month since Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz and former jueteng operator Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor had accused the PNP of taking over the operations of jueteng.

Interviewed by phone on Saturday, Calderon confirmed the "new all-out, honest-to-goodness drive" but declined to give the deadline he imposed.

"I did set September as a target. You could say I've given some leeway to field commanders up to the end of September," he said.

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, PNP spokesperson, said jueteng is active in parts of the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Bicol.

The police directors of the Cordillera and Metro Manila were also called to the meeting that lasted past midnight.

The campaign, Calderon said, seeks to extend more help to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and its license holders in making the small town lottery (STL) flourish.

Introduced in February, the STL has been touted as the government's antidote and alternative to jueteng that has bred political scandals in public offices, including the presidency, since the late 1980s.

The PCSO estimated it could generate P7.2 billion from the first year of the STL operation.

Its rules state that of the gross income, 55 percent is set aside for the prize fund, 30 percent for the charity fund and 15 percent for the operating fund.

At least 10 percent of the charity fund goes to cities or towns where the game is run, 5 percent to the provincial government, 2.5 percent to congressional districts and 5 percent to the PNP.

The small share of the PNP was the reason behind the non-cooperation of officials during the early months of STL, INQUIRER sources said.

Mayor had said that a regional police director gets up to P1.4 million in monthly grease money from jueteng.

According to a police official, the jueteng crackdown is expected to be "more difficult" in at least nine areas covered by STL licenses.

This was because jueteng coexists in the same areas through either bookies operations or STL collectors who double up as jueteng collectors in the licensed areas and nearby areas.

PCSO reports showed that STL has licenses in Angeles and Quezon cities, Pampanga, Bataan, Quezon, Occidental Mindoro, Laguna, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija.

Sources earlier said jueteng financiers held stakes, although undeclared, in corporations that obtained STL licenses.

In the fresh crackdown, police and local government officials face the risk of being relieved, Calderon said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

DENR starts demolishing Laguna Lake fishpens

LUCENA CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF ENvironment and Natural Resources started to demolish illegal fishpens in the 90,000-hectare Laguna Lake Friday in response to the clamor of small fishermen and legitimate fishpen operators who had been long complaining of poor fish catch.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes supervised the demolition to ensure that it was being properly carried out as part of the government's campaign to promote a better and healthier environment.

"Fishpen areas in Laguna Lake have far exceeded the allowable limit. This is bad for everyone. It must be rationalized and utilized according to plans and best practices," Reyes said.

He said the demolition of illegal fishpens and fish cages had become imperative to ensure the sustainability of the lake.

Based on the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA)-Fishery Zoning and Management Plan, a total of 10,000 ha have been earmarked for development into fishpens and another 5,000 ha for fish cages.

The DENR said the area covered by fishpens had reached 12,418.2 ha, or an excess of 2,418.2 ha.

The area covered by fish cages, on the other hand, only has a total size of 1,849 ha, with 3,151 ha still available for development, the DENR said.

Reyes vowed to go after the "big fish" by giving first priority to fishpens that cover big areas, outside of fishpen belts and those that are not covered by permits from the LLDA.

He explained that the demolition should be conducted on a phase-by-phase basis to allow the owners of illegal fishpens and fish cages to voluntarily demolish their structures.

"We will not accept any resistance. No force will be needed if the illegal structures will be self-demolished," he said, adding that the LLDA had already given the fishpen and fish cage owners sufficient lead time to dismantle their structures three months ago.

Retired Gen. Marino Filart, president of the Federation of Fishpen and Fish Cage Operators Associations of Laguna Lake, recalled that several years ago three pieces of *tilapia* weighing not less than a kilogram could be cultured and harvested within three months with the fishes feeding solely on natural food found in the lake.

"Today, it takes a year to produce six pieces of tilapia, which will weigh one kilogram," Filart said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Evacuees in Mayon to start work for schools, villages

LEGAZPI CITY—AFTER ALmost a month of staying in evacuation centers, Mayon evacuees in Camalig town will start on Monday with the cash-for-work project of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, where they will earn money to buy their other needs.

Elena Andalis, DSWD administrative officer, yesterday said the cash-for-work project would give work to the evacuees and pay them for their services.

She said this project is for all evacuation centers in Albay but it would first start in Camalig, since all the projects had already been identified with the help of the DSWD central office, the local government unit and the evacuees.

Andalis said they were still coordinating with other local government units for the same project.

She said 135 families from the upper portion of Barangay Cabangan, housed at the Taladong Elementary School, would benefit from the project as 135 persons would be assigned to the different projects identified in the evacuation center.

The evacuees will work for five days, and will be paid P200 per day for the repair of classroom roofing, concreting of the floor of the temporary tent house and path walk, cleaning of classrooms, leak proofing of classroom roofs, grass cutting in school lawns, cleaning of school drainage and school yard cleaning.

The initial cost of P81,000 for this project in Camalig has been approved by Jim Rebustillo, DSWD regional director.

In the latest update of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council yesterday, there were still 6,566 families or 30,634 persons housed in 23 evacuation centers in Albay.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology bulletin yesterday said a small ash explosion occurred at 2:01 p.m. on Friday, but it was not seen because of the thick clouds covering the crater of the volcano.

There were 31 volcanic earthquakes noted, which indicated active magma ascent into the crater, while 248 tremors were generated by lava fragments detaching from the lava flow deposits.

Because of the high level of volcanic unrest due to the occurrence of intermittent explosions, significant number of volcanic earthquakes, elevated volcanic gas outputs and continuing lava extrusion, alert level 4 remained in effect, which means that the 8-kilometer radius extended danger zone over the southeast should remain off limits. *Joanna Los Baños, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Bulacan holds longest fiesta

CITY OF MALOLOS—The province of Bulacan is celebrating what is touted as the longest fiesta in the country.

Various activities have been lined up for the monthlong celebration of the Singkaban Fiesta which started on Aug. 15.

A statement from the provincial government said the affair, formerly known as Linggo ng Bulacan, depicts the "flourishing cultural and historical heritage [of Bulacan] through choral singing, band playing, street dancing, theatrical plays, art and food exhibits, and a competition and parade of talents and skills, and distinctive products."

Gov. Josefina de la Cruz said Singkaban, a famous bamboo arc decoration usually seen in Philippine fiestas, was given a deeper meaning in Bulacan from where it originated. The fiesta name also stands for "Sining at Kalinangan ng Bulacan." *Inquirer Central Luzon*

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SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS
September 3, 2006, Sunday

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Book Launching, Film Showing and Presentation of Supreme Sign by Eternal Publication

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area
Spa Training by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Pistang Panitik
by Anvil Publishing, Inc. & Unyon Ng Mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas/Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo; University of the Philippines Likhaan: UP Institute of Creative Writing; UP Quill; UP UGAT; UP Writers Club; Ateneo de Manila University Press; Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts and Practices (AILAP); De La Salle University Bienvenido Santos Creative Writing Center; University of Sto. Tomas Publishing House; Thomasian Writers Guild; UST Center for Creative Writing and Research

3:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Activity Area
Bare Hands Reflexology by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Dianetics Introductory Lecture by New Era International Publication Aps and the Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Mass

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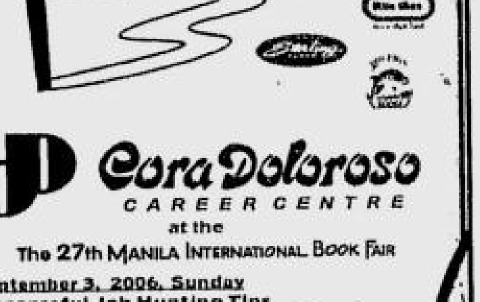

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September 3, 2006, Sunday
Successful Job Hunting Tips 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Function Room A
Corporate Manners with Fashion Show 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 n.n., Function Room A
Modeling for Beginners 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Function Room B

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Abaya: Let court decide on Poro Pt. port mess

DAGUPAN CITY—THE HEAD OF the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) yesterday said the controversy over the operations of the Poro Point seaport complex could be resolved only through legal means.

Abaya, in a statement on Friday, urged the parties concerned to stop fighting through the media and allow the courts to decide the impasse.

He said the issue was already with the Court of Appeals.

The BCDA, its subsidiary the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC) and the Philippine Ports Authority have a pending petition at the CA to nullify the temporary restraining orders and injunctions issued by Judge Robert Cawed of the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court in connection with the Poro Point dispute.

Abaya said he was also concerned about media statements urging him to direct PPMC officials to follow the order issued by the La Union court.

"At this point, no amount of pressure and bullying can make the BCDA act unilaterally on the Poro Point issue. We will wait for the CA to decide, and we shall abide by whatever decision the CA will make," he said.

"Our courts have the requisite powers to implement their decisions. It is not for the BCDA to implement the court orders as some parties would like us to do."

FISHERMEN get near the Poro Point seaport complex, which is gripped by a controversy over a 25-year contract to operate it held by a joint venture firm. The port is all but empty now.
TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

ABAYA

Other projects

Since the matter is pending before the courts, the BCDA is focusing on more urgent and pressing matters such as the supervision of ongoing projects like the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, he said.

The controversy over the Poro Point seaport in San Fernando City continues as the seaport operator refuses to acquire an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Joel Salvador, regional director of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau, has advised the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), which has a 25-year contract to run the seaport, to apply for an ECC so his agency could lift the cease-and-desist order (CDO) it issued to the company.

"All the PPIC has to do is to apply for an ECC and [if it is approved], the CDO will be lifted," Salvador said.

But the PPIC was adamant in its claim that it was covered by the ECC given to the Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone in 2000.

Violation

PPIC lawyer Brigido Dulay said the DENR should lift the CDO first, and "if there are issues on ECC, we will comply."

"Our contention is there is an ECC and that the PPIC has no environmental violations. The violation was committed by a locator (Saturn Cement Marketing Corp.)," he said in a telephone interview.

Last week, a team from the EMB led by Salvador conducted monitoring activities at the seaport. Five Taiwanese vessels were found docked at the seaport during the inspections.

A PPIC lawyer said the vessels were given berthing permits.

Salvador said he was consulting with DENR lawyers on the filing of cases against the PPIC for allowing vessels to berth at the seaport despite the CDO.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Chavit seeks rebidding of 25-yr port contract

ILOCOS SUR GOV. Luis "Chavit" Singson yesterday deplored what he said was an "apparent attempt by some quarters to justify the anomalous transaction" and reiterated his call for the contract to be rescinded and rebid.

SINGSON in his Baluarte garden.
INQUIRER PHOTO

"How can it be above board when there was no bidding?" asked Singson in a press statement sent to the INQUIRER.

"How can it be okay when only an agreement, not a contract, was signed giving the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) complete control of the entire Poro Point seaport complex for an annual fee of P50 million, an amount much less than what the seaport was earning?"

Earlier, the PPIC, through its legal counsel lawyer Bridigo Dulay, said it has documents to prove that the 25-year contract to run the port awarded to the PPIC was above board, quoting two former chairs of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

In his statement, Singson said if government lawyers and officials of the BCDA were "trying to justify this anomaly," senators and congressmen "whose integrity is above question should conduct an investigation and determine the circumstances of the management transfer."

"I would like the proper authorities to rescind the agreement, conduct a public bidding and award the port management to the highest bidder," said Singson in his statement.

During a visit to the INQUIRER, Singson said the contract was a "sweetheart deal" entered into by the government with the Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI), the private firm that entered into a joint venture agreement with BCDA to form the PPIC.

He said the deal was given to BHI on a silver platter on the intercession of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Singson said he was not giving up the fight against the contract and would reveal everything he knew about the deal if the Senate pushed through with investigating it.

He also called on Congress to investigate members of the BCDA board who were appointed during the time of Estrada and who, he said, are now colluding with BHI to keep the deal intact.

He refused to identify who these BCDA board members were but said one of them previously held a position in a national daily.

"If the bidding is done without any graft and corruption, the port will bring about economic progress to the region and the country as a whole," said Singson in his statement.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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Ups and downs in Sulu peace work

By Victor M. Taylor
Contributor

WHILE MOST OF THE COUNTRY WAS FOcused on a myriad of events, including the quashing of a new impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, recent developments show some progress in efforts to bring peace back to Sulu.

These, however, also reflect the difficulties and frustrations that accompany such efforts.

Acting on intelligence information, mostly provided by American military forces who have been in Sulu for more than a year and a half, the military launched an operation against Abu Sayyaf forces in Indanan town midnight of July 31.

COMMENTARY

The "high-value targets" supposedly included Khadaffy Janjalani and Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah members Dulmatin, who carries a $10-million reward offer from the US government, and Umar Patek, who has a $1-million bounty.

What is significant about the campaign is that it was launched with the help of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) forces loyal to Nur Misuari.

Essentially, the MNLF agreed not to involve itself in the fight and restrict its forces to its camp in Sitio Marang, Barangay Buansa in Indanan. The military offensive was concentrated in the adjacent barangays of Kagay and Sawaki.

Equally important is the fact that the MNLF agreed not to allow the bandits to enter its areas.

Initially, the military indicated that it was expecting the operations to last only around two days since the targets had been pinpointed and land, sea and air forces had been deployed.

But by Aug. 4, the military command in Sulu announced that the timeframe for the operations would be open-ended, indicating that the initial optimism was misplaced.

On Aug. 7, the Armed Forces of the Philippines confirmed what had been feared: that the "high-value targets" had escaped the dragnet.

Greater familiarity

At this point, some military quarters have considered bringing the cooperation with the MNLF to a new level by asking the erstwhile rebel group to actually pursue the "enemies." The rationale was that the greater familiarity of the MNLF not just with the terrain but even with the Abu Sayyaf would make it easier for the campaign to succeed.

Actual operations by the MNLF were scheduled to take place on the evening of Aug. 12, but, at the last minute, this approach was dropped. It was decided that it would be the Marines who would undertake the pursuit, with the MNLF limited to serving as a blocking force at possible escape points.

Why the change in plans? Possibly, some military commanders considered it an admission of their failure if the MNLF was allowed to run after the bandits.

This was a stark contrast to the attacks launched on Nov. 11 last year by Marines in pursuit of Abu Sayyaf forces in Barangay Buansa in Indanan. The barangay chair, Salip Tito Jainal, tried to dissuade them from proceeding, pointing out the absence of any bandit in the area and that the soldiers would be walking into an MNLF camp. The Marine officer in charge shrugged off Jainal's protestations and the unit encountered MNLF regulars. Several soldiers died.

Pursuit mission?

Fighting escalated over the next two weeks, culminating in rocket and bomb attacks by the Air Force, just as the highest ranking military officer in Sulu, Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, who headed Task Force Comet, was delivering a speech to mark the start of the Mindanao Week of Peace on Nov. 24.

The Southern Command (Southcom), under Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, had insisted that the soldiers were after Abu Sayyaf bandits and their supporters when clearly, they were locked in battle with MNLF members.

There was suspicion then on the part of the civilian population that the military was using the operation as an excuse to also dismantle the MNLF forces in Indanan. This was highlighted by the fact that Southcom officials kept on repeating the claim that they were after the Abu Sayyaf and "Abu Sayyaf supporters," the latter being a catch-all phrase which could justify running after anyone who could be considered a threat.

Today, the cooperative stance between the military and the MNLF in Sulu is an offshoot of efforts on Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, then Southcom deputy head, and a Balik-Islam, to get the two groups to talk and listen to each other. This was the result of a "Bridging Leadership" training handled by the Asian Institute of Management Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides, which Dolorfino attended.

Dolorfino said he was impressed with what he went through during the training and wanted to introduce it to the military and particularly Sulu as a test case for its effectiveness.

Under the coordination of AIM Mirant Center executive director Prof. Ernesto Garilao, a four-day workshop was held in March in Jolo, which brought together representatives from the police and the military, the MNLF, local government units and civil society groups.

Since that workshop, the groups have sat down several times and discussed issues affecting the peace and order situation in Sulu to strengthen communications among the sectors and, hopefully, confidence in each other.

But there has been resistance within the military to this kind of approach. Even the "Bridging Leadership" workshop in March was opposed by many local military commanders.

Some of them did not want to sit down with the MNLF. They felt that the MNLF was a spent force and that the government has won the "psy-ops" war against them, having gotten them to sign a peace agreement, which is being complied with slowly and at a pace that the government dictates. Moreover, the government has effectively splintered the ranks of the MNLF, utilizing instruments of patronage.

The bigger problem, the officers argued, was the question of governance. The majority of the mayors are allegedly rarely found in their municipalities. If they are not in the capital town of Jolo, they are in their palatial homes in Zamboanga or in Manila. Even the governor reportedly spends more time outside the province.

OIC delegation

This is what should be attended to rather than sitting down with the MNLF, the officers said.

This resistance—if not outright obstruction—was exhibited in the military ranks during the visit of a delegation from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in May to check on the gains of the 1996 peace agreement with the MNLF. Despite prior coordination with the military command in Sulu, MNLF forces were not allowed to go to Jolo to meet with the OIC representatives.

In anger and frustration, the MNLF commanders headed back to their camp and threatened to instead meet the military on the battlefield.

As a face-saving devise, the OIC representatives were ferried by helicopter to the MNLF camps where the discussions were held, serving the government an international embarrassment.

Even during the ongoing operations against the Abu Sayyaf, Dolorfino is viewed with suspicion by some of the field officers in Sulu. Some think he is being soft on the Muslim forces, particularly the MNLF. Others say he is just showing off.

Whatever it is, the military strategy in Sulu appears to have been temporarily muddled—which is not necessarily a bad thing. It has been said time and time again that a militaristic approach will not work in Sulu, as demonstrated from the time the Spaniards came in the 16th century up to today.

Change is always met with resistance, which is what we seem to be seeing in the military leadership in Sulu today. Whether change will, in fact, come, and will be for the better or we will just have more of the same in Sulu—more killings, more kidnappings, and more bombings—remains to be seen.

The author is an adviser to Tabang Mindanaw on establishing a culture of peace in Sulu. He headed a team which just completed an eight-month study on the security situation in Sulu, and the ingredients necessary to bring peace back to the province.

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G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 STAY ALIVE	2 LITTLE MAN	3 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 THE LOST CITY	5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	6 YOU ARE THE ONE	7 YOU ARE THE ONE
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 YOU ARE THE ONE		2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
		3 CLICK 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE LOST CITY 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 YOU ARE THE ONE 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX YOU ARE THE ONE		2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	
		3 LITTLE MAN	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	5 SNAKES ON A PLANE	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 MORTUARY	3 SNAKES ON A PLANE	4 LITTLE MAN
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 YOU ARE THE ONE		2 SNAKES ON A PLANE	
		3 LITTLE MAN	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	5 STAY ALIVE	

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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Ballet Academy September 3, 2006	Ariel's Great Wall of Stain Challenge September 3, 2006

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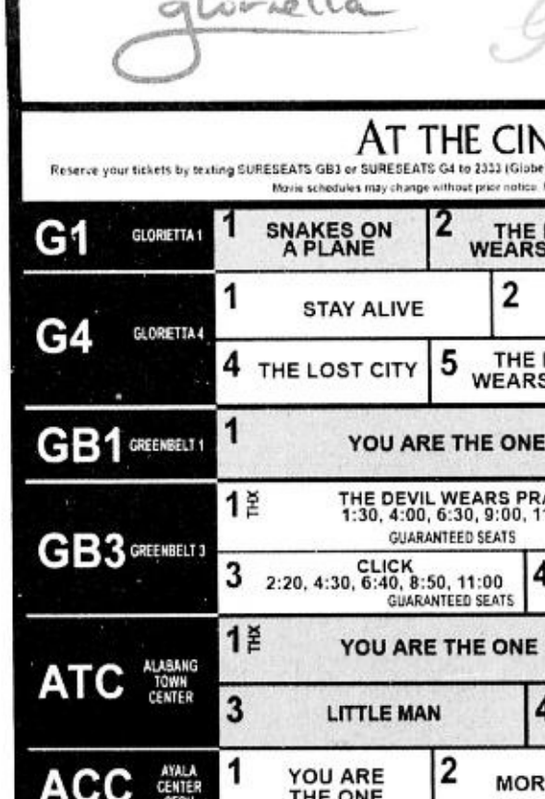

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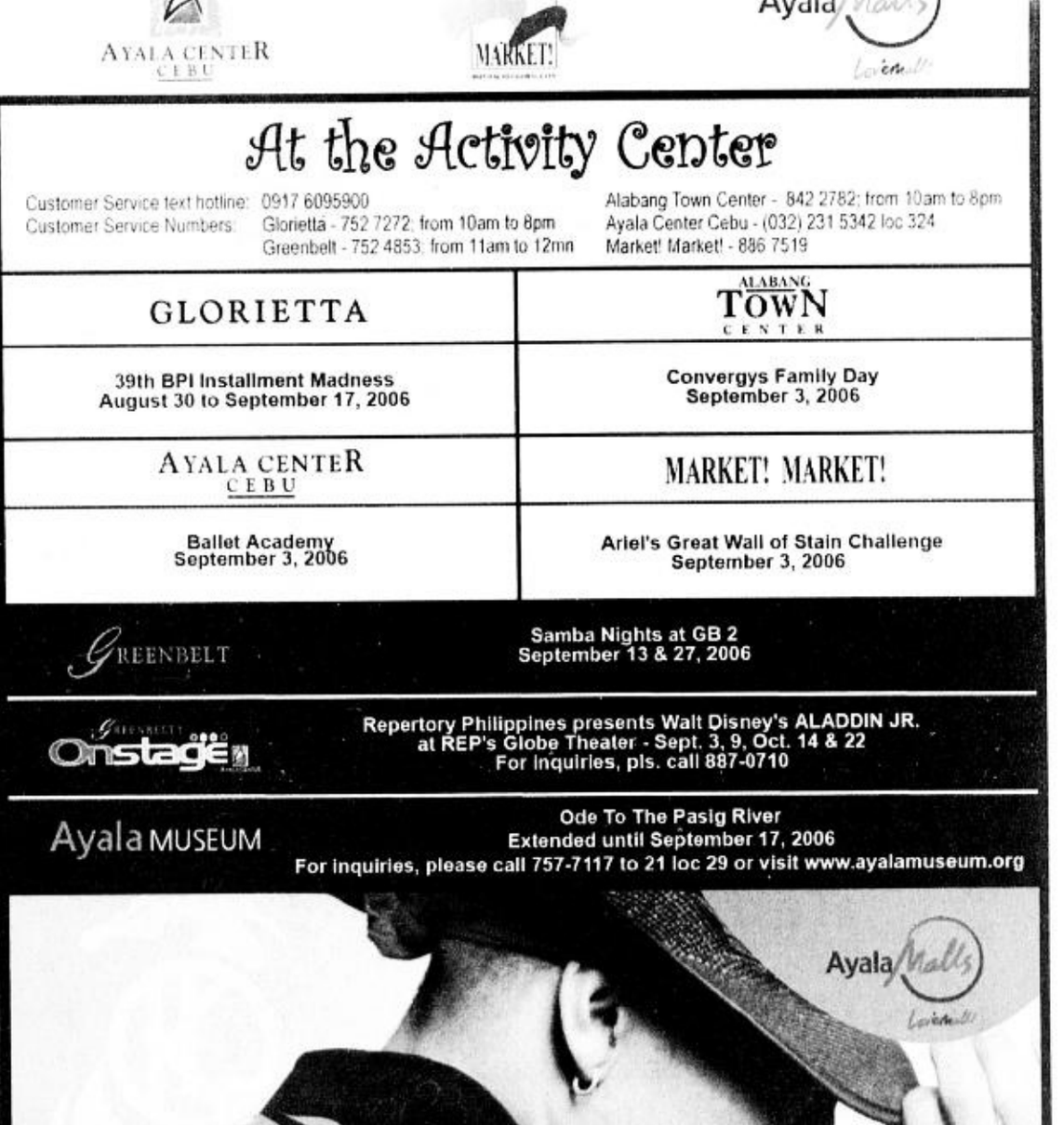

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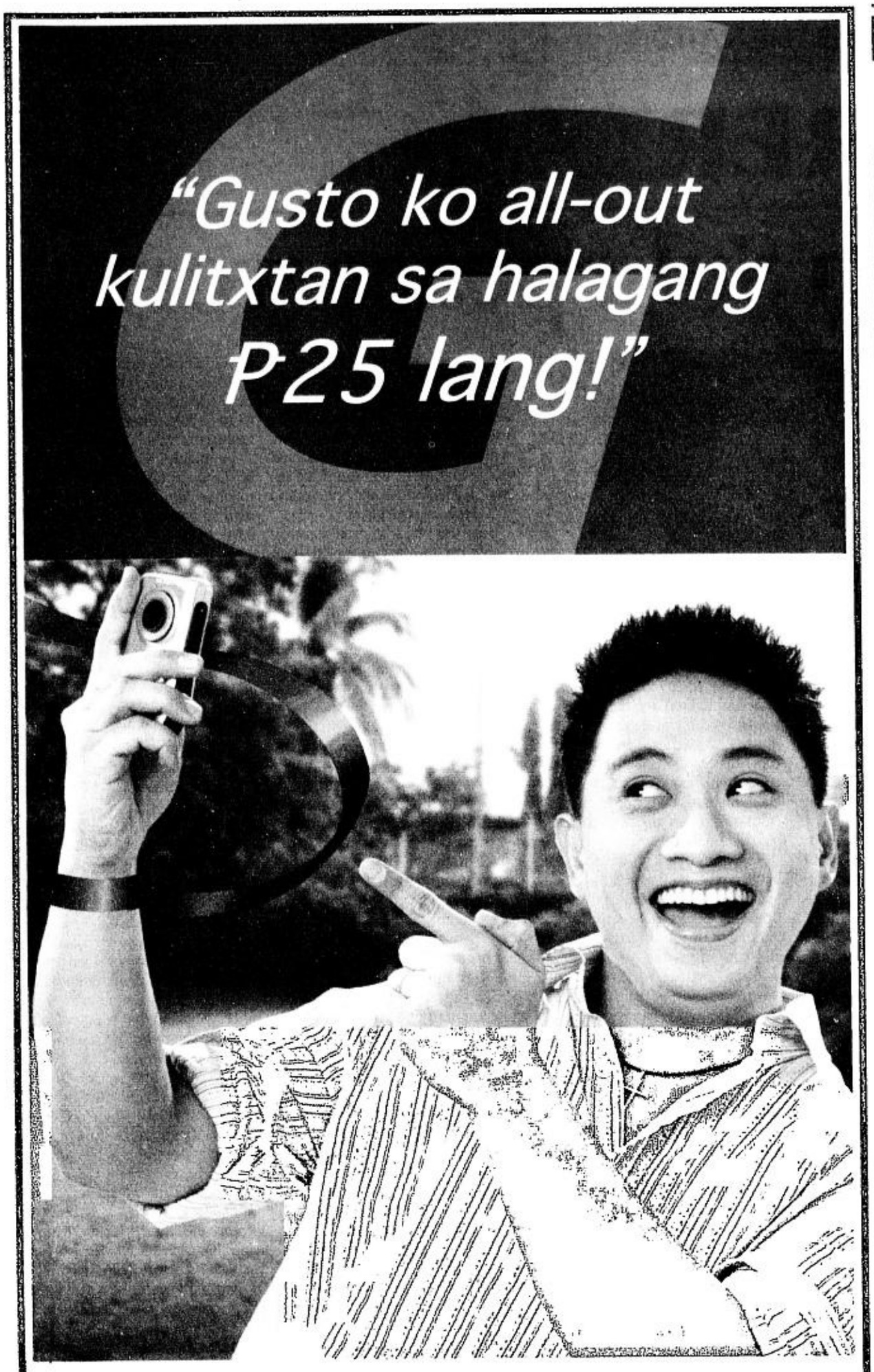

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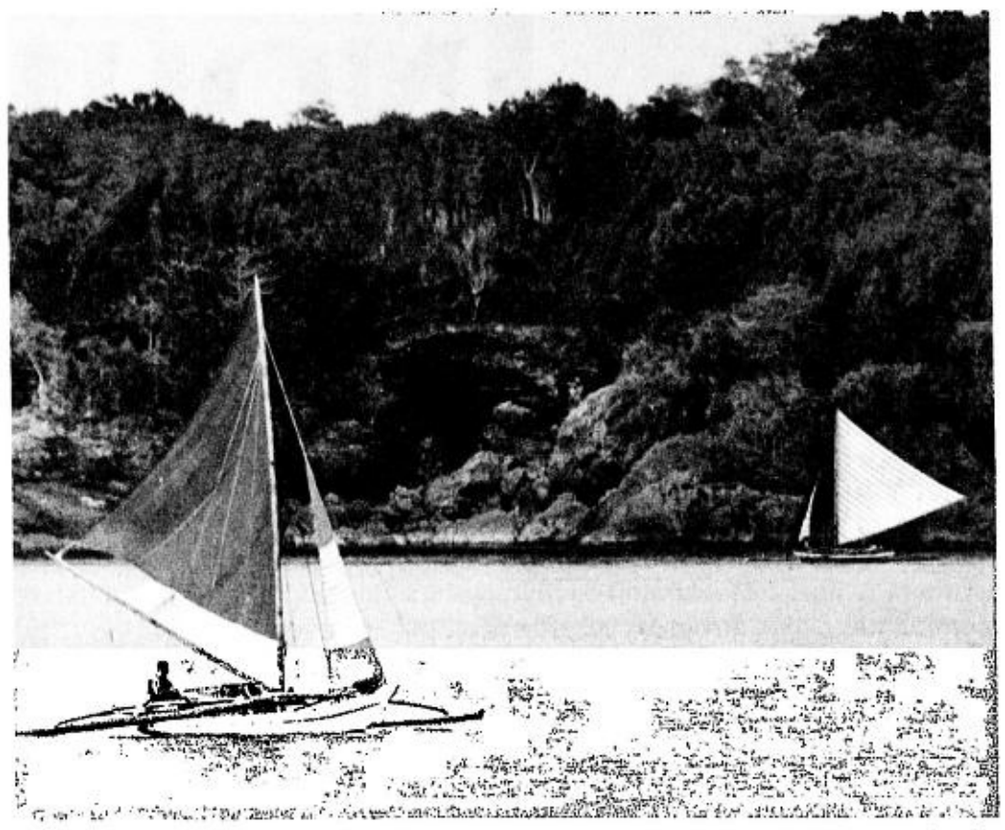

TWO OUTRIGGERS with colorful sails traverse the waters off Villa Igang in Guimaras. An oil sheen has reportedly reached the area from the leak of the MT Solar I which lies deep in the sea. EDWIN BACASMAS

Experts urge Guimaras cleanup by November

By Norman Bordadora

THE CLEANUP AND CONTAINMENT OF THE massive oil spill off Guimaras island as well as the operation to recover the estimated 1.8-million liters of oil still inside the sunken MT Solar I have to be done by November, otherwise more of the country's seas could come under threat, top science officials said.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the prevailing wind and ocean currents would shift in November, from the southwest/northeast direction to northeast/southwest.

"When the current is reversed, the oil slick might affect a larger area. We're talking here of the Sulu Sea and Mindanao," said Pagasa chief Dr. Prisco Nilo.

With the present southwest/northeast current, the areas affected are Masbate, the northern tip of Negros, the northeast side of Panay and the Visayan Sea.

Aside from the estimated 200,000 liters of oil that has already been spilled, another 1.8 million liters remain in the sunken tanker hundreds of meters below the surface on the sea floor.

Retired general Glenn Rabonza, the executive administrator of Office on Civil Defense and executive officer of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said there was no deadline for the cleanup and containment operations, "but we're doing it fast".

Rabonza said that at the rate the oil sludge was being collected and dispersants sprayed, there would be significantly less oil in the waters off Guimaras by November when the currents change.

"By November, we expect the oil on the water to be just sheen. Of course, that is just my guesstimate," he said.

The main concern is the 1.8 million liters that remain in the reportedly still leaking tanker.

A salvage firm, Fukada, "reportedly the No. 1 salvage company in Japan," has been engaged to assess the position of the tanker. Rabonza said it would take at least a week for the authorities to plan and decide what to do—whether to refloat the Solar I or just siphon off the huge amount of oil it is holding.

"We have to understand that the location of the tanker is quite deep. There is extreme pressure on the vessel. There is a danger that the ship might crumble," Rabonza said.

Iloilo health officials said they have been conducting comprehensive testing in the areas affected by the oil spill after initial tests showed toxicity levels reaching 2,000 times the acceptable level.

Department of Health regional director Lydia Depra-Ramos said the testing was being conducted in the coastal villages in Nueva Valencia, Sibunag and San Lorenzo towns.

Health officials said the tests showed unacceptably high levels of hydrogen sulfide and higher than normal levels of hydrocarbons such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and xylene.

"The levels are very, very high," said Dr. Zenaida Villareal, chief of the local health assistance division of the DOH-Center for Health Development and incident commander in Guimaras.

The number of residents with spill-related diseases or symptoms has reached 677, most of them suffering from coughs.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will endorse a bill that will add more teeth to the country's maritime laws in order to prevent another environmental disaster like the Guimaras oil spill.

In a statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President has asked the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Philippine Coast Guard to formulate a comprehensive report and assessment of the Guimaras oil spill that can be used as the basis for legislation. *(See related story on this page.)*

"The executive department is prepared to certify the proper legislation in the public interest that will give more teeth to our maritime laws and stiffer penalties for negligence leading to environmental disasters and threatening the people's safety and welfare," said Bunye.

Bunye said the President was determined to make the Solar I oil spill the "last of its kind in our generation." *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas*

Lawmaker seeks stronger legislation against oil spills

By Abigail L. Ho

IN THE WAKE OF WHAT IS TOUTED TO BE the worst oil spill in the country's history, a solon is seeking a stronger legal and policy framework for such disasters.

In a statement, Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta said the existing legal and policy framework to address such calamities was "scant and flimsy."

"The wrangling over tort liabilities, damages, insurance claims and cleanup funds reveals a pressing need to strengthen legislation that covers the creation of an oil spill liability fund, navigation routes for ships bearing oil or bunker fuel, requirements for double-hulled tankers, and long-term rehabilitation and scientific research programs for oil spill-damaged habitats," he said.

He added that although the country was a signatory to the International Marine Pollution Convention, it still had inadequate laws to effectively enforce penalties and liability claims.

Presidential Decree 979, which governs maritime pollution, imposes a fine of only P10,000 on violators. This, he said, needed to be amended.

The Clean Water Act of 2004, of which Acosta was the principal author, while it penalized discharges into bodies of water, could still be considered "inadequate to address the large-scale implications of an oil spill in open seas," he said.

The Clean Water Act, however, was clear on one basic principle: That the polluters should pay.

He said the government should not be expected to solely bear the costs of "containment and rehabilitation for massive pollution caused by corporate entities or the transport of privately owned cargo."

Whoever caused the pollution, meaning the contracting entity and the owner of the barge, in this case Petron Corp. and Sunshine Maritime, respectively, should be responsible for shelling out the required cash to conduct the cleanup and rehabilitation of all oil spill-affected areas.

Apart from weak and inadequate laws, Acosta said there was a "glaring lack of scientific and research investments in the country for marine biodiversity and long-term coastal resources management."

Citing the Yale Environmental Sustainability Index, he said the country's low rank in environmental governance vis-à-vis other countries could be attributed to its low investments in science and research, which represented only 0.2 percent of gross national product.

The Department of Science and Technology, he added, had the lowest budget among government agencies.

A plus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Betty Lou Daul Center: Making a difference for Batasan Hills

CHILDREN can read books or play board games in the center which has a well-stocked library. Children International, the humanitarian organization that runs the center, wants to turn kids into "healthy, educated and self-reliant adults." CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

IN A ROOM AT THE BETTY LOU DAUL CENter in Batasan Hills, Quezon City, around a dozen women—each with a child in tow—are waiting for their turn to speak with Jezreel Lacanilao, a field officer of Children International (CI).

There are more women waiting outside. One of them, 29-year-old Annabelle Benabaye, is cradling a child in her arms.

"Her mother is actually my neighbor," she clarified. "I'm looking after her while her mother attends to her other child in the next room."

CI is a worldwide humanitarian organization that funds and runs the Betty Lou Daul Center through its agency, Unang Lingap Kapwa Philippines Inc., (Lingap Kapwa). Lingap Kapwa looks after 18,000 children and youths in Quezon City, over 150 of them residents of Batasan Hills.

The two-story, 1,080-sq.-m. center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It was built in honor of the late American philanthropist and longtime CI sponsor Betty Lou Daul, whose family, led by her husband Ron, provided the funds for the construction of the building. Ron, with Betty Lou's sister Ruth Denor and niece Jackie Kempen, attended the center's inauguration last June 16.

Lots of benefits

Benabaye's four-year-old daughter Richelle is among the beneficiaries of CI's programs, which include educational scholarships, free school supplies and regular medical and dental checkups. The children also receive gifts during Christmas, Easter and on their birthdays.

The gifts are usually checks which can be redeemed at select SM branches, said CJ Tarroja, CI communications coordinator in Quezon City. She added that each check is worth US$10.

"Richelle is not scheduled to have a checkup today," Benabaye said as she picks out a book from one of the shelves at the center's library. She started reading to the little girl in her arms as three more kids came into the room and got a book each.

"I came here so my neighbor could register her child," she told the INQUIRER. "The sponsorship is a big help for people like us. My husband is a janitor. We have four kids. Sometimes I sell fish balls to earn some money."

Studious child

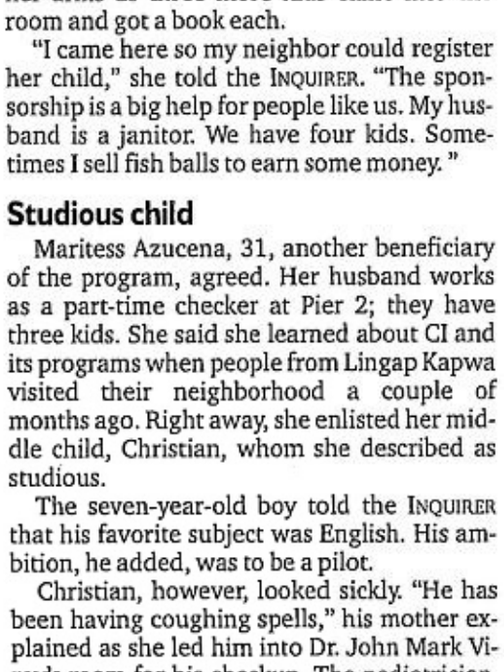
Maritess Azucena, 31, another beneficiary of the program, agreed. Her husband works as a part-time checker at Pier 2; they have three kids. She said she learned about CI and its programs when people from Lingap Kapwa visited their neighborhood a couple of months ago. Right away, she enlisted her middle child, Christian, whom she described as studious.

The seven-year-old boy told the INQUIRER that his favorite subject was English. His ambition, he added, was to be a pilot.

Christian, however, looked sickly. "He has been having coughing spells," his mother explained as she led him into Dr. John Mark Viray's room for his checkup. The pediatrician, after finding out that the boy was underweight, gave him free medicine and vitamin supplements.

Mother and son's next stop was the den

BETTY/ A18



ALL PROGRAM beneficiaries regularly undergo a medical check-up to ensure that they are fit.

John Scissorhands and the art (and business) of making people beautiful

By Anna V. Gonzales

THOSE WHO GO BY STEREOtypes—boxing people strictly into categories—will probably be stumped when they meet John Edward Law. This tall, trim, charming "*chinito*" can walk into the set of a Jackie Chan flick and play the part of the martial arts icon's gun-toting, karate-savvy sidekick. But John is not a movie star. He is a freshman at the Tony Galvez School of Cosmetology in Cubao, Quezon City.

On most days of the week, John can be found at the school, wielding a pair of scissors and a comb, mixing hair dyes and fixing up models.

But make no mistake. This 30-year-old man, despite his interest in cosmetology, is straight. He has a longtime girlfriend: an orthodontist.

John adds that his interest in women was among the reasons he got into the business of beautifying people.

"I like to look at women. Instinctively, I can tell what will look good on them. And who else would appreciate women but men. Don't we all make ourselves look good for the opposite sex?" he says.

Business-minded

John, the eldest of four children, is actively involved in his family's businesses. He helps out in their restaurant and in the family-owned company which manufactures kitchen equipment.

But he also wanted to set up a business of his own. After considering his options, John settled on something that he says had always interested him from the time he was a teenager.

"As far as I can remember, *bata pa ako, siguro* in my teens, *maporma na ako, pinapansin ko suot ng mga* cousins *ko, mga* friends *ko*, even my Mom and siblings. I would also notice their hairstyles. (I have always been well-dressed even as a child, in my teens. I always noticed what my cousins, friends, mother and siblings were wearing). Plus, my Mom has a beauty salon beside our house," he tells the INQUIRER.

John has a very methodical approach to this new venture he wants to pursue. "I wouldn't go into any business unless I knew every aspect of it. After all, I wasn't thinking of going into it as a hobby. I would not put hard-earned money into any business unless I understood it thoroughly," he says.

John said he started looking for a school that offered courses covering everything he needed to know to run a beauty salon. When an aunt told him about Galvez's school, he enrolled immediately.

Beauty courses

The school offers four six-month courses: one on hair care and another on the business aspect of running a salon. The other two courses focus on skin and nail care.

There is also a two-year cosmetology mastership course which John says he wants to pursue.

Before going into the family business, John had finished a degree in physical therapy. He then worked as a therapist but found the routine too stifling.

"I wanted an outlet for my creative energies. I've always been following trends in fashion. *Di ako nagpapaiwan, kung ano ang uso, lagi akong updated* (I always keep up with trends). I watch the lifestyle shows on TV and subscribe to fashion magazines," he tells the INQUIRER.

This early, John already has plans for the salon he says he will put up one day. It will also double as a spa so he can put to good use his background as a physical therapist. "The salon I have in mind will cater to people from the A to C classes but the rates will not be very high. Apart from the technical proficiency of the staff, hygiene is something I will emphasize in my salon," he says.

Appearance conscious

Being very meticulous and fastidious about his looks, John says those who work with people must be conscious of their appearance, as well as personal hygiene. "Apart from being always fashionable, one must take care of one's self. I go to the gym regularly. I work with weights and I also took up a course in body balance. It is very similar to yoga."

With his keen eye for details and interest in cosmetology, is he not worried that people will think he is gay?

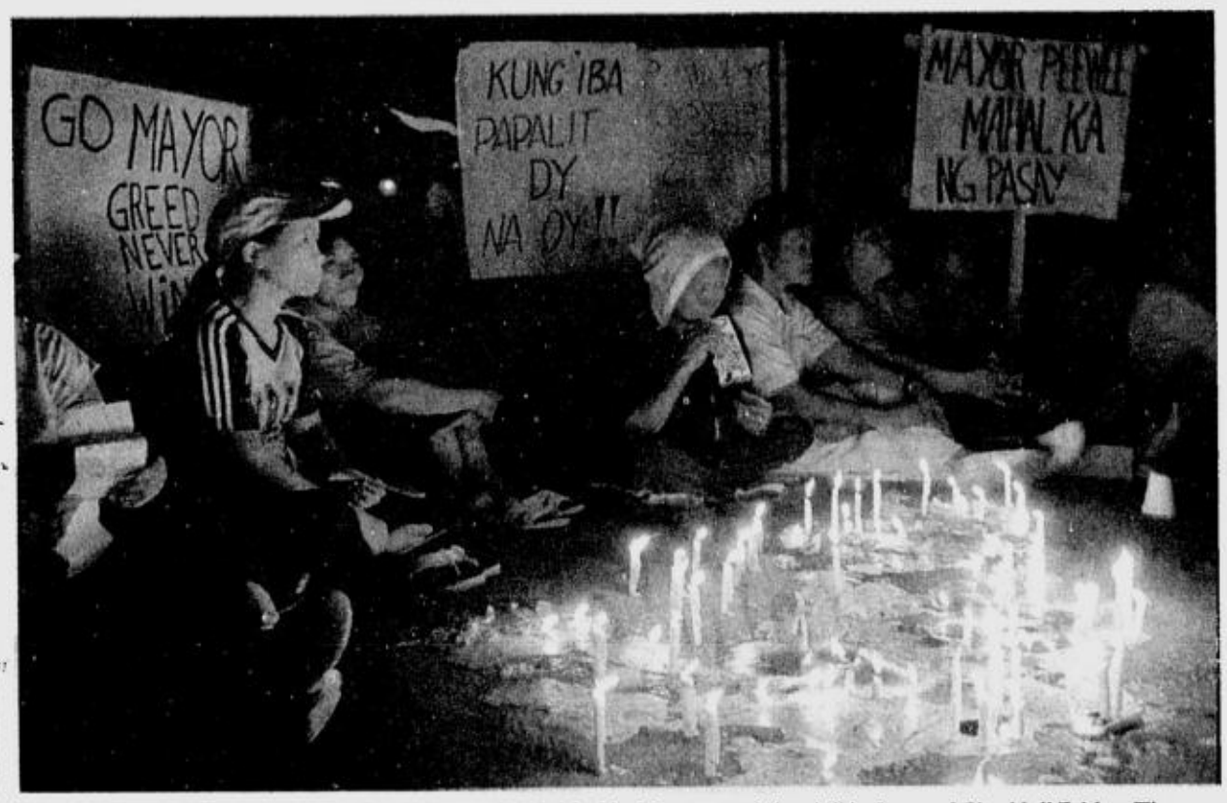
"I know myself. I'm not bothered by what other people think. I mind my own space," he says, while stressing that he has nothing against the third sex.

JOHN Edward Law: One of his reasons for taking up cosmetology is his interest in women. RYAN LIM

He added that he was inspired by the show "Blowout" on the ETC channel. "Its host, Jonathan, is straight and I can't forget what he said: 'I'm in my world, I'm not in their world'."

John says his parents are very supportive of his decision to go into the salon business. "They themselves are very hands on managing our businesses and they passed on this work ethic to me. They appreciate the fact that I am not going into it unprepared," he adds.

Even John's girlfriend shares his passion for making people look good. "She serves as my model sometimes," he says.



SUPPORTERS of Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad held an overnight vigil in front of City Hall Friday. The mayor and 11 other officials who were ordered suspended by the Ombudsman have not left the building since Friday night. RODEL ROTONI

Business as usual at Pasay City Hall despite suspension order

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT IS BUSINESS AS USUAL AT Pasay City Hall, Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad said yesterday, a day after he and 11 other officials were slapped a six-month suspension from office by the Office of the Ombudsman.

His supporters held a vigil Friday night, during which Trinidad told them he would neither leave his post nor give up his office to his political opponents.

Suspended along with the mayor were Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto and 10 councilors — Richard Advincula, Lexter Ibay, Jose Antonio Roxas, Ma. Antonia Cuneta, Noel Bayona, Arnel Regino Arceo, Editha Vergel de Dios, Marie Irish Pineda, Generoso Cuneta and Greg Alcera.

They were sanctioned after they entered into an allegedly anomalous garbage and disposal contract worth more than P464 million in 2004 and 2005.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, meanwhile, said he would implement the suspension order against the 11 officials as soon as he gets a copy of Gutierrez's decision.

"I am obligated to comply with and implement all legal directives," Puno added.

Trinidad, on the other hand, claimed that Rep. Connie Dy, who was reportedly planning to run for mayor next year, was behind the whole thing. "This is a desperate move in view of the upcoming elections," the mayor, who is up for reelection, said. ***With Norman Bordadora***

ABS-CBN exec's husband answers BIR charges

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

CESAR R. CONCIO JR., THE HUSBAND OF ABS-CBN executive vice president and Channel 2 head Charo Santos-Concio, yesterday said that he and not his wife, was the owner of Franmar Corp.

Concio issued the statement a day after the Bureau of Internal Revenue charged his wife with violating tax laws for allegedly failing to produce the financial records of the company.

According to the BIR, Santos-Concio is the president of Franmar, which based on records of the Securities and Exchange Commission for 2003 to 2004, was among the top 20 stockholders of ABS-CBN.

This was refuted, however, by her husband. "As president of Franmar, I assume full responsibility for all corporate matters including tax violation and liabilities of Franmar, if any," he said in his statement.

His company's tax consultants — Pelejo, Priela, Ongkingko, Siton & Co., CPAs — also sent a statement to the INQUIRER in which they expressed surprise over the filing of a case against Santos-Concio.

The statement was signed by Belinda M. Priela-Nazareno, a partner in the firm who said that "being the engagement partner of Franmar Corp., I have personal knowledge that the company operates under the presidency of Mr. Concio.... I have always dealt with him on tax and accounting matters and never with Ms. Santos-Concio."

She added that "while [the] BIR may be doing its job, there may just be an oversight."

"Franmar will be able to answer at the proper forum whatever charges have been filed against the company and its officers," she said.

In a complaint filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office Friday, the BIR said Santos-Concio had failed to present Franmar's books of accounts and other records for 2004 "despite several personal follow-ups and telephone calls."

METROBRIEFS

Fake microphones

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) seized 14 fake "Magic Sing" videoke microphones in a raid on an establishment in Greenhills, San Juan the other day. Raided was Precision Audio Video Services Inc. located at the third floor of Virra Mall. Lawyer Jose Justo Yap, chief of the NBI's Intellectual Property Rights Division, said the operation was prompted by a complaint filed by Higinio Fabian, executive vice president of Astra Group Inc., which owns the "Xtreme" Magic Sing trademark. NBI agents seized 14 microphones and accessories worth at least P150,000, Yap said. ***Tina G. Santos***

Alay-Lakad set today

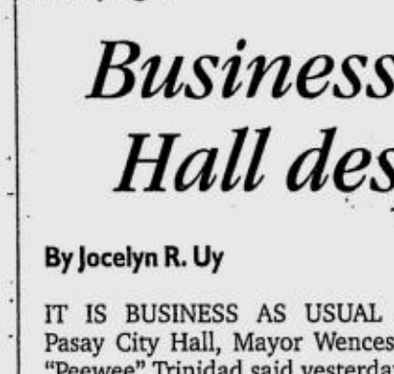
PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro have been invited to lead this year's Alay-Lakad sa Kabataan Day which will be held today at Rizal Park. Government officials, civic leaders and business groups are also expected to grace this annual tradition which is celebrating its 34th anniversary. The nationwide annual Alay-Lakad is the signature fund-raising project of the Alay-Lakad Foundation Inc., according to its president Frank Evangelista. Proceeds will benefit the country's out-of-school youth. For inquiries and other details, call the ALFI national secretariat office at 5231539 or 5226134.

Free self defense lesson

MARIA Lourdes (Marielle) Macapawa Sensei — the only Filipino woman who is a 5th dan Aikido master — will explore the different dimensions of real self defense on Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m., at the Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center, 7484 Bagtikan corner Sacred Heart Streets, SAV in Makati City. Attendance is limited to the first 35 callers. Participants are requested to wear jogging pants. Please confirm your attendance by calling 8907960 or 8907906.

Betty Lou Daul Center: Making a difference...

From page A17



A WOMAN and her son looks at a book in the center's library (top) while another pair is interviewed by a staffer.

tist's office. After checking Christian's teeth, Dr. Lilia Turbulencia sent the pair back to the staff room where Jezreel talked to them.

"I'm doing an update of the childrens' profiles and their families' condition," she explained.

Daily schedule

According to her, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays are for the children's medical and dental checkups. On other days, the children write letters to their sponsors—most of whom live in the United States—and attend storytelling sessions with volunteer readers.

Jezreel added that the youngsters are also encouraged to use the library, computer room and multipurpose hall for their studies and group activities.

Other CI sponsors provided additional funding for the center's other facilities, including the Celerina Marquez King Library and the medical room called the Jeremiah David Johnson Health for Life Medical Clinic.

Although Azucena is happy that her son, Christian, is one of CI's scholars, she said she wished the organization could take in more than one child per family.

Not everyone, however, can qualify for the program.

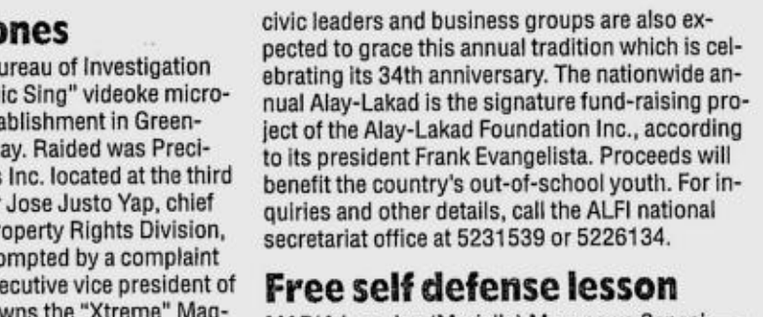
Requirements

CI-Lingap Kapwa director Lei Orieste said they only choose underprivileged children aged three to nine years of age, regardless of their religion, culture and physical condition.

Beneficiaries could be orphans or with just one living parent, or under the supervision of a guardian after having been abandoned by their parents, she added.

They must come from compact geographical areas for effective program service delivery and no member of their family should be "enrolled in any similar sponsorship organization."

Children of school age should also be enrolled in school. "Education is one of the bedrock programs of the agency," Orieste pointed out, adding that they want each child to grow into a healthy, educated and self-reliant adult.



REGULAR dental checkups are also among the benefits children enrolled in the program can avail of.

A case in point is Rowena Aileen Rombano who was a CI scholar from 1991 until March this year, when she completed her nursing degree. She now works as a medical assistant at center.

"CI made a big difference in my life," she said. "Now, I want to help the current batch of sponsored kids."

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail: pr_global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Pidro now has a wife and son; they've gone overseas

By Kenneth M. Del Rosario
Contributor

FOR OVER 20 YEARS, PIDRO HAS BEEN A constant source of pride and a steady symbol of nationalism to millions of Filipinos abroad. He has brought his wife Inday and son Pidrito with him overseas. They are now all overseas Filipino workers.

Filipino in its truest sense, Pidro is a fictional being with a life of his own, says APO Hiking Society member Danny Javier, the man behind Pidro.

Initially conceptualized as his alter-ego since he was a child, Pidro, Danny says, is more than just a product of the mind come to life. He is a *promdi* (from the province) who does not care if he has a Visayan accent. Embodying the characteristics of the true Filipino, Danny points out how Pidro can be a model for the proactive Pinoys.

The first batch of Pidro shirts featured a logo of a smiling Pidro with the tagline "Pilipino ako," which, until now, is still patented to Danny's name.

"It has become some sort of identity to many Filipinos abroad," Danny says, recalling overseas Pinoys who would come up to him after their concerts just to show him that they are wearing Pidro shirts and they love it. Danny, also known as Pidro, returns the favor to them by signing their shirts.

Aside from its quality, Pidro also incorporates Pinoy humor in the shirt designs. Some of the best-selling quip lines include "Pilipino ako. Maraming mamahalin, iisa ang iibigin," and "Titirik ang mata mo sa kaligayahan." Today, the slogan "Papa ko 'to" is selling like hotcakes.

While Pidro can now be found all over the world where there are Filipinos, he achieved the success without opening a single outlet abroad, says Danny.

When Danny produced the first Pidro shirts, he was the sole salesman and got purchases from his relatives and friends. He would put the shirts in his car's trunk and, after work, would offer the items for purchase usually to celebrities in the likes of Dawn Zulueta and Richard Gomez.

The OFWs later on discovered the Pidro shirts and started buying them in bulk, bringing the shirts abroad with them to give to their family and friends. Others even sell the shirts to their *kababayans* there, says Danny, adding that Pidro shirts has now become a standard *pasalubong* for many Pinoys going abroad along with the local *bagoong*.

Like a true Filipino, Pidro's story evolved over the years. He is now a family man with his wife and son. Now, you'll be able to see Pidro's imprint in men's shirts, Inday's in women's, and Pidrito's in children's wear.

Yet, Danny stresses that Pidro is more than an imprint on shirts.

"Pidro is a philosophy, a lifestyle, a way of life," he says, adding that Pidro is part of a bigger plan to show the whole world that Filipinos can and will make it wherever they go, whatever they do.

And soon, Pidro will also open the "Portal ng Bayan," (www.pidro.com) a website dedicated to making lives of Filipinos abroad easier. The website would feature the latest news and information about the country. Chatrooms and message boards would also be created for better communication between OFWs and loved ones.

Danny does not take Pidro as a business at all. On the contrary, all he wants is to help build a better nation, maybe not in his or his children's lifetimes, he says, but in the future.

He wants to use Pidro as a tool in helping "instill pride in being Filipino, to approach life and work in a new approach—no shortcuts, no cheating, just pure industriousness and perseverance."

And because Pidro and his family now reside in the "hearts of every Filipino abroad," it is not impossible that maybe, in the future, Pinoys will be referred to as "Pidros."

Fil-Am boy comes home

By Franco Emman Von M. Cena

THESE DAYS, A TYPICAL FILIPINO TEENAGER would go for his "American Dream." But to 20-year-old David Eric Poarch, going back and living in the Philippines is like "living his dreams." In fact, to him, there's no going back to Texas.

The Philippines has given this half-Filipino, half-American boy some of his fondest memories, he said, citing specifically Subic, Zambales, where he spent seven years before his whole family migrated to the United States. His mother Marilyn Marang is a Filipino teacher while his father Robert Poarch is an American navyman who met in the Subic naval base.

"I enjoyed it—whether it be running through the rice fields, or chasing *tutubis* in the *bukid*, or climbing mango trees and catching *salagintos*, or playing with chickens, ducks and *kalapatis*," he said.

Texas 1993

David and his family left the country for the United States because his father, a navyman working in Subic Naval base, was reassigned to Texas in 1993, two years after the American facility was closed.

But after 13 years of discontentment and longing for his birthplace, David finally gave in and flew back home in February this year.

"I had no plans, and no expectations," he said of his homecoming. "I just had to get out of that stressful environment I had while in the States.

"I just felt that I belonged here, that the country would relieve me from my stresses and that it was my safe haven, and that I would find my purpose within the Philippines," he added.

The eldest of two children, David was 7 years old, then a pupil of Mondrian Montessori School in Olongapo City, when they left for Texas.

"We were not exactly poor then, but we would have been had we stayed longer because my father had lost his job here," he recalled.

What are you?

Schooling in the US was fine, according to David, although he had a hard time fitting in at first. "In my case, I changed from a free-spirited and happy-go-lucky child to a sheltered and shy one," he said.

He said that he felt strange and became a loner when classmates would make fun of him.

"My classmates would ask me: 'What are you?' referring to my mixed roots. I really felt this way because others tended to single me out," he said.

But he later found the courage to say: "I am half-Filipino, half American."

He would bump into other half-Filipinos in school, but David said he could never really relate with them, saying they were "too Americanized" and seemed to have never been to the Philippines.

"I have never met another Philippine-raised Filipino who still had the values of that of a traditional Pinoy," he said.

Growing up

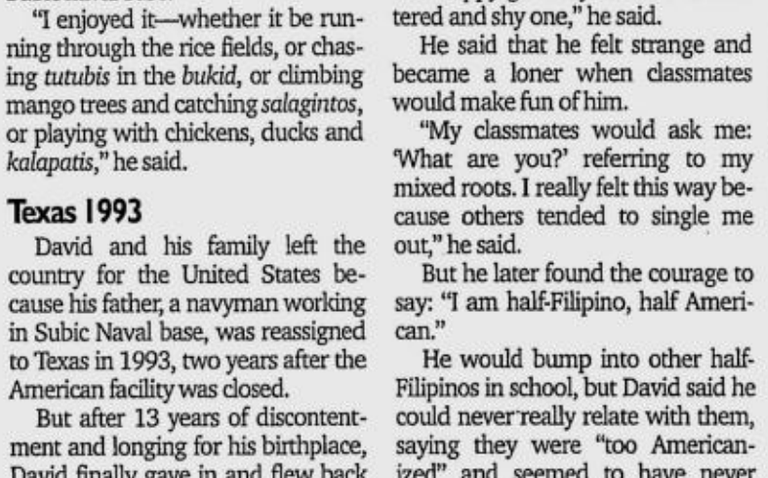
Growing up, David got the chance to live in various states because his father would be transferred from time to time. That kind of setup deprived him of enough time to settle down and develop new friends.

But he was able to put up with those difficulties eventually. He succeeded academically and became more competitive.

He graduated valedictorian from Pearland High School and subsequently earned a full scholarship to Ivy League Rice University where he studied electric and computer engineering.

But after two years of schooling in Ivy League, David quit college and decided to go back to his roots. Now, he lives alone in a house in Subic vacated by his maternal grandmother, who has also migrated to the States.

He spends time to go to places he dearly missed, particularly the countryside where he grew up in. He goes trekking most of the time and tries to relearn the Pinoy culture.



FROM SUBIC TO TEXAS: David with parents Robert and Marilyn and sister Rachael Lynn and grandmother Lolita Marang.

WHAT is this handsome, young man, who grew up in the United States, doing in a rice field? David Poarch, 20, has returned to his hometown to help plow his family's small farm in Zambales.

Plowing the fields

Treading through mud and manure was no big deal for David as he usually spends his days tagging along some farmers as they plow the fields right at the back of his house in Barangay Mangan-Vaca in Subic.

Though it's hard work and the tilling usually leaves him dirty, he said he actually enjoyed the experience.

"I'm starting to get the hang of it actually," he said. "I've learned that the key to actually tilling the land is pulling the plough up so it digs into the ground and also steering the plough inwards so it cuts into new ground."

The memories of him joining Holy Week processions, and other Lenten activities, or even playing card and board games in candlelight during brownouts are still vivid to him.

Surviving on $200

"I miss going to some Filipino celebrations and festivals like fiesta and Santacruzan," he said. "I remember joining Christmas caroling and even listening to radio show 'Gabi ng Lagim' with my *lola* before going to bed."

David remembers riding in a jeepney going to school, playing *sungka* and *sipa* with neighbors and going to the town's wet market with his mother.

David said that he sometimes finds it hard to cope with the daily expenses since he is now living on his own.

"I left Texas with only $200 extra," he said. "Finding and purchasing food is my main priority every day. Cooking is another task because I have to build a fire or *gatong* when I don't have enough money for gas."

Since he doesn't ask financial support from his parents, David lives by himself and sometimes with the help of his relatives in Subic.

From time to time, he writes e-mails to his parents. He also scribbles notes on his notebook whenever he lacks resources to rent out for a PC and Internet use, he said.

Lovelife

David said that he now has a girlfriend in Subic whom he met in the town market.

"She visits me here from time to time and checks on how I am doing," he added.

Back in Texas, David said that he never had the financial difficulty he goes through here but said that he enjoyed his stay there because of the fat money they earn. "I had an easy life there," he said.

His parents have enjoyed career and financial success in the US, and his sister is on the way to attending college and becoming a doctor.

He left with his parents' permission but they did not approve of him settling down in the Philippines.

"Given the choice, I would not go back to Texas," he said. "But my parents are there, and they refuse to live in the Philippines, so for their sake, if I am unable to find success here in the Philippines or at least see significant progress within a year, then I will go back to Texas."

But for David, there is more to life than Texas. And the "American Dream" is certainly not the only key to happiness.

He will find success here in the Philippines, he said, adding that this is the only place where he found happiness and belonging.

No American dreamer

"I haven't yet given any thought into pursuing my studies here," he said. "But if I do, I would probably take a business or computer course."

David would be a regular contributor of Illustrado magazine, a magazine to be launched soon dedicated to overseas Filipino workers based in Dubai.

To keep track on what he has done here and places he has visited, David keeps a weblog titled "Coconuter: A travelogue of a Philippine nomad." He said he was doing this not only for himself, but for other Fil-Ams.

"I thought it would be a good idea to share this with others so that I may be able to connect with Filipinos abroad who miss the Philippines, provide Filipinos in the Philippines a different perspective, and give others who are not Filipino a taste of the Philippines," he said.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

16 arrested in London antiterror raids

LONDON—BRITISH POLICE SAID ON SATURDAY they had arrested 16 men in two separate antiterrorism operations just three weeks after uncovering a suspected plot to bring down US-bound airliners over the Atlantic.

Fourteen of the men were held in London in an operation that a police source said focused on suspected "training, recruitment and encouraging others to take part in terrorist activity."

Antiterrorist police in Manchester arrested two men early on Saturday and were carrying out three searches but this was not linked to the London arrests, police there said.

The BBC said 12 of the London arrests were made at or near a Chinese restaurant in south London that police in riot gear raided on Friday night, questioning diners for hours and taking some away in handcuffs.

The BBC said the probe may be linked to alleged "training camps" in Britain, saying there had been reports of militants getting together for adventure training as a means to develop closer ties.

The arrests came soon after the head of London police's antiterrorist branch, Peter Clarke, said in a television interview that police were keeping tabs on thousands of British Muslims who they suspect may be involved in or support terrorism—higher than previous official estimates.

Police said the 14 men held in south and east London on Friday night and early Saturday morning were arrested in a "pre-planned, intelligence-led operation." The men were suspected of "the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism," and were being held at a central London police station, police said.

They said the operation was not related to the arrests of more than 20 people on Aug. 9-10 in connection with an alleged plot by a group of British Muslims to blow up US-bound airliners using liquid explosives.

Nor were they related to the July 7 attacks last year when four British Islamist suicide bombers killed 52 people in rush-hour attacks on London transport, they said.

The police said the arrests followed many months of surveillance and investigation in a joint operation involving the police antiterrorist branch and the security service.

Searches were being carried out at houses in south, east and north London, they said. *Reuters*

Iran refuses to budge in nuclear standoff

TEHRAN—PRESIDENT MAHmoud Ahmadinejad sent a curt message to global powers Friday vowing that Iran "will not give up one iota" of its nuclear rights, in the first official reaction to a critical International Atomic Energy Agency report.

"The enemies should know Iranians are standing firm on obtaining their rights and will not give up one iota of their nuclear rights," Ahmadinejad told a rally in the northwestern city of Makou, state media reported.

On Thursday, the UN nuclear watchdog concluded in a confidential report that Tehran had not suspended its enrichment-related activities, as demanded by the Security Council.

The deputy chief of Iran's nuclear agency insisted the report was "not negative" and vowed to continue uranium enrichment for research purposes while keeping open negotiations with the international community.

"The report is very factual and adds that the Iranian nuclear program is under the supervision of the IAEA and that there has been no deviation" towards any military purpose, he said.

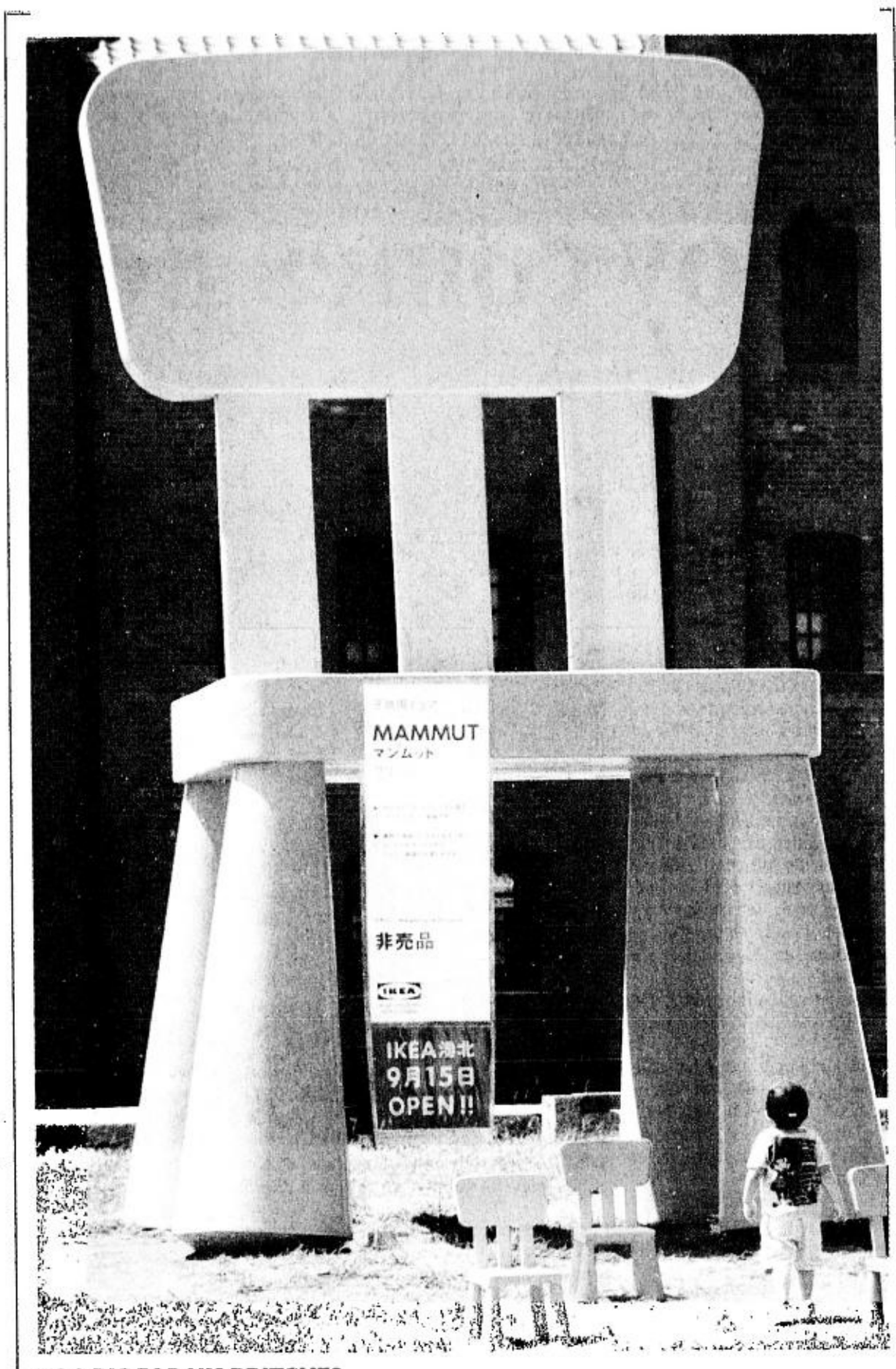
Iran insists it is exercising a right to develop civilian atomic energy.

On Friday, Russia expressed "regret that Iran did not fulfill the demands of (UN) Resolution 1696 ... and did not stop work on uranium enrichment," foreign ministry spokesperson Mikhail Kamynin said.

Russia and China have consistently resisted calls for sanctions against Iran, preferring a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

The IAEA report was submitted to the Security Council as an Aug. 31 deadline for Iran to suspend uranium enrichment expired, and could lead to UN sanctions against Tehran.

Uranium enrichment provides fuel for civilian nuclear reactors but in highly refined form can also serve as the raw material for atom bombs. *AFP*



TOO BIG FOR HIS BRITCHES
A boy looks up at a six-meter-high giant chair "MAMMUT" designed by Swedish furnishing company IKEA at a shopping mall in Yokohama, Sept. 2 to promote a new store. AP

US claims success in missile defense test

WASHINGTON—IN THE FIRST full-scale test of the ballistic missile defense system in over a year, an interceptor rocket launched from California on Friday shot down a target fired from Alaska that officials said in some respects resembled a warhead from a North Korean rocket.

Pentagon officials said that the successful intercept, which occurred in space over the Pacific Ocean, showed that the fledgling system, put in place in 2004 by the Bush administration before testing was complete, would have a good chance of stopping a ballistic missile fired at the United States in a limited attack.

Critics said that the test lacked realism and that its main objective had been to allow the Missile Defense Agency to claim the program was back on track after the interceptors in the last two flight tests, in December 2004 and February 2005, failed to leave their silos.

Officials said that the target missile did not deploy decoys or other countermeasures meant to confuse the interceptor from striking the actual warhead.

Decoys involve relatively basic technology that a potential foe like North Korea could be expected to employ, said Stephen Young, a missile defense specialist with the Union of Concerned Scientists, which opposes deployments of missile defenses.

"This test was as scripted as it can be," he said. "It's a very complicated test technically but it's much simpler than dealing with an actual missile launch would be." In a real-life attack, he said, far less would be known about the timing, trajectory and characteristics of an incoming warhead.

In Friday's test, the interceptor missile launched at 1:39 p.m. in California, about 17 minutes after the target missile was sent up from a military installation in Alaska. *NYT*

WorldBriefs

Donors pledge $500M in aid to Palestinians

STOCKHOLM—Donor countries on Friday pledged $500 million (390 million euros) in aid to the Palestinian territories as the UN warned a conference that the region was facing a humanitarian crisis. "All in all, it was a total pledge of nearly $500 million," Swedish Aid Minister Carin Jaemtin said on the sidelines of the talks in Stockholm. United Nations relief coordinator Jan Egeland opened the meeting warning that the Gaza Strip was a "ticking time bomb" after a devastating two-month Israeli offensive. Egeland criticized the Palestinians' isolation, especially the closure of the road linking a supply facility in Karni to Gaza, which has led to a lack of basic food stuffs, medical supplies and fuel. At least 204 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier have been killed in Gaza since June 28, when Israel launched its offensive to stop Hamas militant rocket attacks into its territory and recover an Israeli soldier captured by the militants three days earlier. *AFP*

Protest bars Fox's state-of-union speech

MEXICO CITY—Leftist lawmakers who have charged that fraud marred the presidential election in July staged a protest inside Congress that prevented President Vicente Fox from making his final state of the union speech to lawmakers on Friday, ending a tense day of political brinksmanship here. Federal riot police and soldiers had sealed off the Mexican Congress with miles of steel fence and water cannon while thousands of protesters camped out in the city's center. The president had vowed he would give his last state of the union message, despite threats from the leftist candidate, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, and his followers to stop him. At the last minute, however, Lopez Obrador backed down. Appearing before at least 5,000 supporters in the capital's central square, the former mayor of this vast city told his followers it would be a mistake to confront police surrounding Congress. Still, lawmakers from Lopez Obrador's Democratic Revolution Party protested inside the chamber of deputies, taking over the podium just before President Fox was to speak at 7 p.m. Several waved Mexican flags and signs calling Fox "a traitor to democracy." The president of the chamber, Deputy Jorge Zermino, was forced to call a recess. *NYT*

Plane landing in Iran catches fire, killing 29

TEHRAN, IRAN—A plane carrying 147 passengers caught fire while landing in northeastern Iran, killing 29 of the 148 people on board and injuring 47 others, state-run television reported. The plane, a Russian-made Tupolev-154, apparently blew a tire while landing in Mashhad, slipped off the runway and burst into flames, Mohammad Javad Mohammadizadeh, the governor of Khorasan province, told reporters. "Another explosion went off inside the plane, which caused the fire inside the plane," he said. "The plane was shaking badly during the landing, then it suddenly lurched to the left," a survivor, Sahar Karimi, said from a hospital in Mashhad. "Then it caught fire, and all the passengers rushed to the emergency exit," she said. *NYT*

Row in India over rotting bodies fed to vultures

BOMBAY—AN INDIAN WOMAN has ignited a furious row over the centuries-old tradition of using vultures to dispose of the dead by sending gruesome pictures of rotting corpses to hundreds of homes.

About three bodies a day from the dwindling Parsi community in India are left to be stripped clean at a private 18-ha complex in Bombay (also known as Mumbai) but the practice is threatened by a dramatic decline in vulture numbers.

The issue erupted after scenes from inside the Towers of Silence were revealed by Dhun Baria, 65, who printed leaflets with grainy pictures of bodies and distributed them to 2,000 Parsi homes in Bombay.

She said she only learned what happened behind the walls of the squat circular towers after her mother's body was taken when she died eight months ago.

The Towers of Silence are off limits to all save pall bearers and the vultures who once circled overhead in large numbers before they dramatically died off.

Pictures circulating within the community are understood to show several dozen bloated and blackened bodies arranged around the upper platform of a tower and decomposing bones of other bodies in a well about six meters below.

The process, known as Dakhma, dates back to ancient Iran where earth, water and fire were considered sacred and not to be polluted by the bodies of the dead.

But the process that once took a few hours or days now takes months, according to reformers, with crows and snakes taking over from vultures.

They complain solar panels set up to aid decomposition have failed to speed up the process. *AFP*

Proof of life: New video shows stronger-looking Castro

CUBA'S President Fidel Castro (right) meets with Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez in a hospital in Havana in this image taken Sept 1. REUTERS

HAVANA—AILING CUBAN LEADer Fidel Castro, looking well along the road to recovery, was shown on television on Friday meeting with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez after temporarily ceding power a month ago to undergo intestinal surgery.

The video from the communist-ruled island appeared aimed at putting to rest rumors Castro was near death and out of public life for good after ruling the Caribbean island for more than 47 years.

The seven-minute clip first showed a smiling Castro in bed receiving Chavez and two little girls on Friday morning.

"Brother," Castro said to Chavez while grinning ear to ear after a hug. "This is wonderful, a million thanks (for coming)." The clip then showed the two men sitting at a table in what appeared to be a hospital room having a lively discussion about international affairs.

Castro, in red pajamas, appeared much stronger than when he was last seen in a video on Aug. 13, when Chavez visited him to celebrate his 80th birthday. Then, a frail-looking Castro, was shown in bed and covered with a blanket.

The latest clip ended with both men giving voice to an old revolutionary slogan, exclaiming: "On to victory always, we will win." Castro temporarily handed over power to his younger brother and Defense Minister Raul Castro on July 31 to undergo surgery for intestinal bleeding.

What exactly ails Castro is considered a state secret and acting president Raul Castro has remained largely out of public view.

The secrecy has created a great deal of speculation inside and outside the country that a succession from Castro's rule has taken place or is under way.

Raul Castro was seen only briefly in the video on Friday receiving Chavez at the airport.

"This morning we talked for two hours. We analyzed the international situation with Raul Castro," said Chavez, a self-described revolutionary at odds with Washington, upon his return to Caracas.

The firebrand Venezuelan leader said he made a brief stop in Cuba after visiting China, Syria and Angola, where he signed cooperation deals he says are aimed at countering US influence.

Castro and Chavez have forged a close alliance they say is aimed at unifying Latin America and wresting the region away from "US Imperialism's grip." Castro has repeatedly stated he sees Chavez as the heir of his revolutionary legacy in the region.

Cuban state television said Chavez also met on his visit on Friday with Raul Castro and "other (Communist) Party and government leaders." Venezuela, the world's No. 5 oil exporter, has helped Cuba resist a US embargo by supplying Castro with 90,000 barrels per day of petroleum on preferential terms and paying for thousands of Cuban doctors and other professionals working in Venezuela. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Eagles vent frustrations on Bulldogs /A22

Sunday SPORTS

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Impossible means nothing to NBA superstar McGrady /A24

MVP gives cage panel key to unity

By Francis Ochoa

BASKETBALL HAS FOUND ITS MVP.

Smart and PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan accepted yesterday the invitation to head the three-man panel that will form basketball's new national sports association (NSA) and pave the way for the lifting of the suspension slapped on the country by the international basketball federation (Fiba).

The Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) and Pilipinas Basketball (PB), the two factions that have agreed to unite for the sake of the sport, announced this development in a joint statement sent to media offices yesterday.

"We thank God and are happy to announce that Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan has accepted the invitation [to head the three-man panel," said the statement, signed by both BAP president Joey Lina and PB counterpart Bernie Atienza.

The panel, the statement said, "will write and finalize the constitution and by-laws of the 'single united basketball organization' which shall seek membership with the Philippine Olympic Committee and will eventually take over the membership of BAP in the Fiba," added the statement.

Pangilinan, also the owner of the Talk 'N Text squad in the Philippine Basketball Association and a staunch supporter of sports development in the country, was one of the big names floated by both the BAP and the PB as candidates for the post.

Among those mentioned were former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, who pulled out of contention on doctor's advise, and Alaska team owner Wilfred Steven Uytengsu.

"We congratulate and commend Mr. Pangilinan for his unselfish commitment to the cause of Philippine basketball," Lina and Atienza said in the joint statement.

Pangilinan's acceptance of the post sets in motion the country's bid to finally have the Fiba lift the suspension that has prevented Philippine participation in official international tournaments since last year.

Pangilinan's acceptance meets the deadline set by both Lina and Atienza in a joint communique signed in Tokyo, Japan, where officials of the warring factions met with Fiba officers to discuss the direction the country needs to take for the suspension to be lifted.

In that meeting, it was agreed that a unified super cage association will be formed starting with a three-man panel, to be headed by the third party, that will author its constitution and bylaws.

Lina and Atienza met with Pangilinan yesterday afternoon at the PLDT office in Makati.

After Pangilinan accepted the post, the three officials agreed to immediately draft the new constitution. They are set to meet anew tomorrow to begin working on the backbone of the new association so they can meet the Sept. 30 deadline for the formation of the new NSA. *With a report from Musong Castillo*

PANGILINAN

2 top cage officials hail choice of Pangilinan

MANNY PANGILINAN HOPES TO GUIDE the new national sports association (NSA) for basketball to the right direction.

Once its course is charted, however, he will allow the NSA to sail on its own.

Pangilinan yesterday accepted the offer of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) and the Pilipinas Basketball (PB) to head the three-man committee that will build the foundation of the new association.

However, his trusted lieutenant, both in sports and business, said the business tycoon-sportsman will only be with the new association during its formative stages.

"He told me he would help during the formative stages but nothing beyond that," said Ricky Vargas, the governor representing the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals—Pangilinan's squad in the Philippine Basketball Association.

Vargas added that Pangilinan would give the group "a free hand to pick its officers" and vowed to help in any way he can to point the new association to the right direction.

New association

Meanwhile, PBA commissioner Noli Eala praised the selection of Pangilinan as the head of the three-man panel that will craft the new association and thanked the team owner for accepting the invitation.

"I'm very grateful to Mr. Pangilinan for accepting the responsibility," Eala said, calling his appointment as a "victory for Philippine basketball."

"I know him to be a man of integrity, competence and ambition and his being part of the panel augurs well for the new association."

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, on the other hand, said Pangilinan's appointment will give birth to a renewed passion for the sport.

"The one thing that he really brings to this new association is his passion for the sport," said Trinidad.

"Just look at what he has done to the three basketball organizations he has helped and been a part of—Talk 'N Text, Ateneo and San Beda," he added. "He has reinvigorated those three teams with his passion for the game." *Francis Ochoa*

Roach takes over as Gabi's manager

FREDDIE ROACH, MANNY PACQUIAO'S FAmous American trainer, has agreed to manage the career of Diosdado Gabi in a bid to guide the Filipino to yet another run at a world championship.

In an exclusive report over Philboxing.com yesterday, US-based writer Winchell Campos revealed that Roach had also secured a fight for the Davao-raised Gabi on Sept. 16 underneath the Marco Antonio Barrera-Rocky Juarez rematch, and had promised the boxer a much-deserved visit to his wife Eva Joy and two-year-old son.

"Roach offered to manage Gabi after he saw signs of abuse and exploitation... Since then, Gabi has been sleeping soundly, training more diligently and been eating healthy. He has been under the watchful eye of Roach and strength and conditioning coach Justin Fortune," said Campos in the report.

Gabi (27-3-1, 19 KO's) is coming off a first-round stoppage win over former world champion Mauricio Pastrana last Aug.10. He reportedly broke off with American-Canadian manager Michael Koncz grip right after the fight.

"The kid (Gabi) has great potential and I believe he has what it takes to win big. He deserves more," said Roach as quoted by Campos.

The report also said that Roach is now "finalizing the details of Gabi's fight contract under Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel "Manny" Pinol, Gabi's former manager, had said that he was informed of this latest development last week when Campos called him up to break the news of Roach taking over the managerial duties from Koncz.

Gabi hopes to bounce back from a loss to Vic Darchinyan in his IBF-IBO flyweight title bid early this year which he had blamed on his former handler reportedly giving him french fries and putting him through swimming lessons before the fight. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

ROACH

GABI

Grandmasters out of squad; Dableo leads qualifying tilt

THE COUNTRY'S HIGHEST-RATED PLAYers—Marc Paragua, Joey Antonio and Eugene Torre—will be missing from the Philippine team competing in the Doha Asian Games in December.

This developed after the three GMs boycotted the qualifying tournament being undertaken by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines for the quadrennial event being held at the Entertainment Hall, Southside of the Mall of Asia.

NCFP president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay and secretary general Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino of Tagaytay City have earlier stressed that all players have to go through the qualifying to determine the composition of the three-player (two males, one female) Team Philippines.

The GMs' absence hardly took the luster out of the qualifier as the upcoming stars started throwing their weight around in the first two rounds of the Swiss System event.

International Masters Ronald Dableo, Jayson Gonzales Oliver Dimakiling, Darwin Laylo, three-time national junior champion NM John Paul Gomez and lady player WIM Beverly Mendoza head those who racked up two straight victories each.

Rep. Pichay, Mayor Tolentino and Toti Abundo, Fide ratings committee chair, and Fide honorary president Florencio Campomanes graced yesterday's opening rites of the 11-round tournament.

The other two-pointers were IM Chito Garma, NM Emmanuel Senador, NM Rolando Nolte, IM Barlo Nadera, Jason Salubre, IM Richard Bitoon, Arlan Cabe, NM Mirabeau Maga, IM Ronald Bancod, Rhobel Legaspi, Tom Fabella, Jose Aquino Jr., Ali Branzuela, Randy Segarra, NM Alex Milagrosa, NM Jerry Nodado, Roland Joseph Perez and NM Adrian Pacis.

Dableo won over Christian Anthony Flores in Friday's opener and Mario Rebano in round 2 yesterday.

Lone GM Nelson Mariano drew his first match against Rupert dela Cruz but bounced back in the second round with a victory over Mark Lester Abalos.

The first two rounds also saw Dimakiling and Laylo, who both earned GM results after placing in the top five of the Malaysian Open, swept past their respective foes to keep pace with Dableo.

ATENEO'S Macky Escalona splits the defense of NU's Howard Flor and Edwin Asoro in their game yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SMB begins build-up with Tenorio, Espinas

By June Navarro

THE SAN MIGUEL BEER REBUILDING HAS started.

Rookies Lewis Alfred Tenorio and Gabby Espinas signed multimillion-peso contracts the other day to inject a dash of youth in the aging lineup of the Beermen in the coming Philippine Basketball Association season.

Drafted fourth overall, the whippet-quick Tenorio agreed to a three-year deal while the 6-foot-4 Espinas, picked at fifth overall, inked a two-year pact. Team officials declined to reveal the financial terms.

"Gabby and I are happy with what San Miguel has in store for us," said Tenorio, who won a UAAP championship with the Ateneo Blue Eagles in 2002 on top of several amateur accolades.

"We haven't really started practicing with the entire team but I'm excited. This is what I'm really dreaming about," added Tenorio.

San Miguel coach Chot Reyes took a week's rest following the national team's championship run in the just concluded Brunei Cup along with SMB starters Danny Seigle, Olsen Racela, Dorian Peña, Dondon Hontiveros and Wesley Gonzales.

Reyes said the team's training would commence tomorrow.

Espinas, who owned the distinction of becoming the NCAA's rookie-MVP in 2004 while playing for the Philippine Christian University Dolphins, will add ceiling and mobility to San Miguel's limited rotation at the frontline.

Reyes openly declared that he would test the waters to net another mobile big man to backstop Seigle and Peña as he squelched rumors that the athletic Espinas is on the trading block.

"We need a quick bigman and Gabby is such a player. We will never give him up," said Reyes.

As for Tenorio, the Finals MVP of the recent PBL championships will serve as an apprentice for veteran playmaker Olsen Racela, who, in a couple of years would elevate his basketball acumen to coaching.

"Last conference, we were dead-last in rebounds, dead-last in fastbreaks. Those are the areas we really need to work on more," said Reyes. "These guys (Tenorio and Espinas) could help us in those areas."

Pagunsan fires 70, trails by 8

THE PHILIPPINES' JUVIC PAGUNSAN FIRED a two-under-par 70 yesterday, but still lagged farther behind in the Pulai Springs Malaysian Masters at the Pulai Springs Resort in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

Counting his earlier rounds of 72-64, Pagunsan posted a 206 total, eight strokes off pacesetter Anton Haig of South Africa.

Haig carded a 69 for a 198 total, two shots ahead of India's Jyoti Randhawa and Thailand's Chapchai Nirat in the $300,000 tournament.

Randhawa carded an eagle-spiked 66 while Nirat fired a 70 for 200s.

Two other Filipinos, Gerald Rosales and Angelo Que, continued their skid.

Rosales slumped to a 73 for 211 while Que tumbled with a 74 for 212.

The reedy Pagunsan birdied holes No. 8 and No. 9 for a 34 going out only to be sidetracked by a double bogey 6 on the 12th hole. He recovered with an eagle on No. 14 for an even 36 coming home.

OLYMPICS: The 2006 Milo Olympics gets underway at the Marikina Sports Park with the parade of colors yesterday.

Eagles vent frustrations on Bulldogs

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ATENEO EAGLES MADE RECOVERING LOOK EASY.

The Eagles showed no ill effects of a recent painful loss by pouncing on the National Bulldogs with a 103-76 rout in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Philsports Arena.

JC Intal poured in 24 points on top of six rebounds and seven assists to lead a dominating performance by the Eagles' first five, who all finished in double figures.

"I was very happy with the performance of the players today because I was very curious how they would react to our first loss," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "I challenged them to take advantage of the fact that we had a bit of adversity and that the (eight-game) streak was broken."

It didn't take long for the Eagles to dispose of the Bulldogs. When they jumped to a 22-13 start, it was clear that the league leaders had exorcised the demons from their first loss, an 88-80 overtime stunner from the Santo Tomas Tigers last Sunday.

The Bulldogs momentarily found their range from beyond the arc to close in at 31-30, but the Eagles' starters quickly brushed off the threat.

Building on their 48-39 halftime buffer, the Eagles pulled away by 20 points, 72-52, late in the third period.

The loss was the second most lopsided this season next to the Eagles' first-round 114-78 drubbing of the Tigers.

After improving their record to 9-1, the Eagles will be wrapping up their elimination round campaign against FEU and UE.

"We're still not guaranteed of the first slot," Black reminded.

The Bulldogs, along with the Maroons, are already out of semifinal contention at 3-8.

Aside from shooting poorly on the floor at 36 percent, the Bulldogs also fared badly at the free throw line at only 53.6 percent .

Meanwhile, the University of the East Warriors will shoot for the second Final Four bonus anew against the University of the Philippines Maroons at 4 p.m. today at the Philsports Arena.

The Warriors blew their chance last Thursday when they dropped an 89-84 overtime decision to the Adamson Falcons, who will try to strengthen their semifinal bid against the UST Tigers at 2 p.m.

"We were worried against UE, but we were able to pass that hump," said Adamson coach Leo Austria. "I hope the players will realize that this opportunity— getting in the semifinals — is very rare for us. But I think the players' desire to win is there."

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	9	1
UE	7	3
Adamson	5	5
UST	5	6
FEU	5	6
NU	3	8
UP	3	8

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
2 p.m. — Adamson vs UST (Srs)
4 p.m.— UP vs UE (Srs)

Adamson is the only team that hasn't reached the Final Four since the format was introduced in 1994.

Quick adjustments, though, are in order for the Falcons after losing starting guard Leo Canuday for the rest of the season due to a dislocated elbow.

"He knew that this could have been his season to play well, he was looking forward to the Final Four so it was very unfortunate that it happened," said Austria.

While Canuday's absence worried Austria, coach Dindo Pumaren was concerned with his Warriors' complacency.

"In our last game, the team lacked the fire and the willingness to win," said Pumaren. "So I reminded the players that we shouldn't settle down because we're not even assured of the second spot."

And the Warriors should be wary of the cellar-dwelling Maroons, who recently stunned the Santo Tomas Tigers.

Adamson, UST and defending champion Far Eastern are fighting for the last two semifinal slots.

In yesterday's junior action, the Ateneo Eaglets secured their 11th straight win by drubbing the UP Junior Maroons, 75-64, to move within a win of an outright Finals berth.

Earlier, the NU Bullpups claimed their first victory in overtime, 83-81, against the UST Tiger Cubs. Kevin Batac shot 35 points-- including the game-winning free throws in the last two seconds -and grabbed 14 rebounds.

The FEU Baby Tamaraws kept second spot after outlasting the Adamson Baby Falcons, 78-74.

The scores:

Fourth Game (Srs)

ATENEO 103 - Intal 24, Kramer 17, Tiu 12, Escalona 12, Al-Hussaini 10, Reyes 7, Escueta 5, Barracoso 5, Salamat 4, Arao 4, Quimson 2, Laterre 1, Uichico 0, Monfort 0.

NU 76 - Asoro 18, Garcia 15, Fernandez 15, Jahnke 12, Lingao-Lingao 6, Catamora 5, Flor 3, Salamat 2, Luy 0, Cooper 0, Malcontento 0, Malagueno 0, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 27-24, 48-39, 72-54, 103-76

BOXING PATRON: Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny T. Lopez (4th from right) receives a training jersey from patron Allan Reyes. Reyes donated sports apparel for members of the national boxing team training for the Doha Asian Games at Teachers Camp in Baguio City. (From left) ABAP secretary-general Roger Fortaleza, SEAG titleist Alice Kate Aparri, Olympian Harry Tañamor, Reyes, Lopez, Joan Tipon, women's coach Glicerio Catolico and national head coach Pat Gaspi.

Spalding helps set 3 world basketball marks

SPALDING'S LATEST BASKETBALL INNOVAtion was instrumental in setting the world record for the longest basketball game and making the longest spinning and dribbling of a basketball.

NCAA basketball powerhouses Duke University and the University of North Carolina set the longest, non-stop basketball game when they played for 57 hours, 17 minutes and 41 seconds last July 14. The Blue Devils won, 3,688 points to 3,444.

A month later, at the NBA All-Star Weekend in Houston, Joseph Odhiambo, a renowned basketball handler, set the world record for dribbling a basketball for the longest time (26 hours and 40 minutes) and spinning a basketball on the finger for the longest time (4 hours and 15 minutes).

"You need a special basketball, specifically one that never runs out of air, to achieve these marks," said Joven Babaan of Proline Sports, the authorized local distributor of Spalding basketballs. "This sustained performance under pressure could've only been done with Spalding's latest product innovation—the Never Flat basketball."

Babaan said Spalding's continued advancement in basketball technology has enabled the sporting goods maker to take its orange ball a step higher from the cutting-edge Infusion (a basketball which came with its built-in pump) to the Never Flat basketball — the number one ball in the sporting goods basketball market today which stays inflated 10 times longer than traditional basketballs.

Spalding guarantees that that the Never Flat's Pressure Retention Technologies would stay inflated for one year.

RP football better under Romualdez

FORGET ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES' WOEFUL ranking in world football for a moment. Get straight to the facts and find out, surprisingly, that the present local booters are faring better than their counterparts in the '90s up to 2002.

Consider that, in the past three years, Team Philippines has scored 20 goals, more than the total scored in the last 10 years before that period. It has also allowed only 35 goals in three years as against the mind-boggling 182 goals in the 10 years before that.

Consider also that in the past three years, Team Philippines has won three internationals and tied three others out of a total of 17 matches. In the 10 years before that, the RP team has only won twice and tied twice out of 46 matches.

In addition, Team Philippines has not lost a match by more than a five-goal margin since 2002. Previously, the RP Team has lost 12 times by a margin of five or more goals—the worst beating coming from Syria, 11-0, in the 2001 World Cup qualifying and to Indonesia, 13-1, in the 2002 Tiger Cup.

Clearly then, Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez, who took over the helm in 2004, has done a good job as far as the sport's international performance is concerned. He and national coach Aris Caslib (2003-2006) also seem to tread the right path to local football development.

The huge crowds that watched the football games during the 2005 Southeast Asian Games in Bacolod City and Marikina showed that local football still enjoys a following.

Even the recent World Cup generated so much interest that hotel lobbies and sports bars showing the event were filled even during wee hours.

Why then is the Philippines ranked only 192 by the Fifa, the sport's world governing body?

That's because Fifa ranking does not depend only on how many games a country wins or loses. There are points added when a country participates in a Fifa event, so the more tourneys the country takes part in the better.

JOHNNY Romualdez (left) and Aris Caslib

UAAP PEP SQUAD: As part of its corporate commitment to the fitness and healthy lifestyle of today's youth, LA Gear, the American brand of shoes, apparel and accessories, is expanding its support to other UAAP schools aside from UST. LA Gear is now also behind the cheering squads of FEU, UE, UP and Ateneo which will have their showdown on Sept. 10 at the Araneta Coliseum. Performing is the FEU pep squad.

Easy IPT sailing seen for Bata, RP pool bets

ALL 12 FILIPINOS, LED BY EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, are expected to advance from their respective brackets in the first round of the money-rich International Pool Tour 2006 World Open 8-Ball Championships which starts tomorrow at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada.

The eight-day event which ends on Sept. 10 boasts the biggest prize fund ever of $3 million with the champion pocketing $500,000 (roughly P26M).

The starting field of 200 players has been divided into 40 groups of five players each with the top three players from each bracket after a single round advancing to the next level. The 80 players who are eliminated in the first round earn $5,000 each.

Hopes are high for a strong finish in the event after Marlon Manalo, Warren Orcollo and Reyes finished second, third and fourth, respectively, in the 2006 North American IPT 8-Ball championship last month at the Venetial Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Thorsten Hohmann, the 2004 world 9-ball pool titlist, ruled the event and won $350,000 after beating Manalo in the finals.

Reyes and Bustamante go into the tournament fresh from giving Team Philippines victory in the inaugural World Cup of Pool held in New South Wales recently.

The other RP entries are Warren Kiamco, Ronato Alcano, Alex Pagulayan, Ramil Gallego, Antonio Lining, the US-based Santos Sambajon and Jose Parica and Fil-Canadian Edwin Montal. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Espiritu out to win CSI4 Malolos leg

THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE CYCLING Search Invitational pedals to Malolos, Bulacan, for the second leg of the 10-stage criterium race.

Rodolfo Malangsa, the 22-year-old who won the first leg held at the Quezon Memorial Circle on Aug. 19, will prove that his victory in the opening leg was not a fluke when he rides again against the country's veteran internationalists led by last season's overall winner Victor Espiritu of Philippine Army.

Other favorites are Army's Merculio Ramos, Bernard Luzon of San Leonardo and Lloyd Reynante of GHQ-HSC in the premier open-pro category of the event presented by Philpost and sponsored by PCSO, Lamoiyan Corp., LandBank, Smart, Speed Detergent, Pagcor and Burlington.

The expected 400-plus riders will negotiate the 2.4-kilometer race which starts and ends in front of the Bulacan Sports Complex in Malolos.

The Malolos leg will coincide with the town's Singkaban Festival, which is part of the province-wide "Buwan Ng Bulakan" festivities spearheaded by Bulacan Gov. Josie dela Cruz, who has been invited to grace the event.

Malangas, who earned 24 points in the Quezon City race, will meet stiff challenge, following Espiritu's vow to do whatever it takes to win this race.

"We have no more excuse," said Espiritu, who cited lack of adequate training for his loss in the first leg. "We have to get this leg." Ramos, who finished behind Malangsa to gain 17 points, is expected to join forces with Espiritu and the rest of the Armymen to wrest both the individual and team honors from Malangsa and company.

Luzon, Reynante and the other veterans in the pack are also expected to make their move to crash into the top ten beginning this leg.

In the Masters Category, the 36-year old and four-time sprint king Enrique Domingo will try to make it two in a row against the same solid cast that includes last leg's runner-up Placido Valdez and third-placer Norberto Oconer, a former Olympian.

Another young rider, elite category winner Stephen Romanquin, will try to duplicate his feat in the Malolos leg, while the all-women David's Salon team will again ride with the elite group to determine this leg's winner after Marita Lucas outsprinted her teammates in the Quezon City leg.

Malolos residents will also have the chance to compete in the People's Race category, which is open to all bikers living within the area where the race is being held.

SPORTSWATCH

Brent Lions score double victory

BRENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PULLED OFF TWO VICTORIES WHEN IT hosted the volleyball competitions of the 7th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) at its state-of-the-art gymnasium in Biñan, Laguna, recently. The Lions crushed La Salle-Health and Science Campus, 25-22, 26-24, 25-14, to begin their campaign in the men's division while their women's team subdued Colegio San Agustin-Biñan, 25-23, 19-25, 21-25, 25-22, 15-4, in the 11-member league featuring the top schools of Southern Luzon. Colegio San Agustin bounced back in the high school competitions where it fashioned similar three-set triumphs over Brent. The CSA boys crushed the high schoolers of Brent, 25-10, 25-13, 25-20, before their girls' counterparts followed suit with a 25-11, 25-15, 25-10 win over the same school. The SLCUAA's first phase features competitions in volleyball, table tennis, chess and faculty and staff basketball.

Fistorama features Picardal-Casa

FISTORAMA FEATURES AT 3:30 P.M. TODAY A SIX-ROUND BOUT BETWEEN Erwin Picardal and Armando Casa in the flyweight division. It is supported by a four-round bout between super-featherweight Kevin dela Cruz and Vincent Cayas. The bouts were held recently in Barangay Bantug, Muñoz Science City, Nueva Ecija. Fistorama is shown twice weekly through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV and RPN-9. Golf Power Plus airs at 3 p.m. featuring the elimination match between St. Francis of Assisi College Team I and World Citi College Team 2 in the PCSO Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge.

Screening for SJC 6-stag derby

SCREENING OF STAGS, EIGHT TO 10 MONTHS OLD, IS STILL ONGOING AT SAN Juan Coliseum as the SJC 1st Anniversary 6-stag derby (Sept. 11 and 13) draws nearer. The event will be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Mimi Itchon of Laguna and Edwin Aranez of Batangas head the screening team. Call them at 0918-3798222 or 0917-4416509 for schedule on farm-to-farm screening. "About 100 entries are expected for this event," said SJC pit manager Pete Rivera. "All participants will be provided with air-conditioned cockhouses." The elimination round (2-stag) unwraps on Sept. 11 followed by the championship round (4-stag) on Sept. 13. Meanwhile, the last day of competition for SJC's Rambulan 5-stag derby takes place tomorrow with 80 fights. The Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag derby follows on Sept. 6.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Onceuponatime (3), Guided Missile (2), Reign of Fire/Infinite Passion (5)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Divine Diva/House of Riches (8), Valiente (3), Perky Perp 91), Lord of Gold/Striking Thunder (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Head Turner (3), Sweet Felicity (5), Yagit/I Miss You (1), Jayvie's Godfather (4)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Play It Again (6), Music Quest (7), Firehouse (4), Lovable Trisha (8)
Race 5—(Tri)—Last Hazm /Ear Me (1), Sweet Connections (4), I Love This Game (2)
Race 6— (Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Allysa's Choice (3), Condoleeza (9), Tonic Water (8), Boss Lady (10), Gundam (2), Bachelor of Arts (4)
Race 7—Native Land (3), Mamaya (1), Hellfire (3), Dixie The Younger (4), Floral Arch (5)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)-Tiedil Forever (4), Ravensworth (5), Quick Pick (1), Run Doding Fly (2)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Don Exequiel (10), Magpakailanman (1), Starsky and Hutch (6), Kay Akino (2), Luck of the Irish (4), Golden Song (8)
Race 10—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Iverson/Sea of Galilee (7), Sky King (8), Bezame Mucho (6), Rock Attack Attack 94), Genie In Disguise (2)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Superamerica (4), Pacman/Even Now (6), Magley (2), Iron Tower (5)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Chabacana (2), Red Storm/Kimagure (4), carmelita (9), Mika Mix (8), Don King (6)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Valid Hazm(2), Lucky Punch (8), Real Tough (9), Better Strike (7), Red Diamond (4), Top of D'Line (3)

Reyes rules Indonesian Asian Karting

FRANCO VICTOR REYES, DRIVING for JetRacing Team Philippines, bagged top honors in the Cadet 60 class of the recent Indonesia leg of the 2006 Asian Karting Open Championships held at the Sentul Kart Circuit in Bogor, Indonesia.

The 10-year-old Reyes, a fourth grader from the Ateneo, swept the three qualifying heats, the pre-final and the final, with a whopping 15-second margin over his nearest rival to claim top honors in the Cadet class.

"It always feels good to win for your country," said Reyes. "It was a very rewarding victory considering the Indonesians were the favorites since this is their home track and it was very tricky to drive. We didn't have much time to practice as I can't afford to be absent from class for a long time."

Another Filipino kid, Christian Gaddi finished third.

Reyes, being backed by Industria Productions, Bingo Bonanza, Shoe-Mart, and Pacific Online Systems, also finished third in the MiniRok class for 10- to 13-year-olds. Teammate VJ Suba, 12, claimed top honors in the division which could have ended with a one-two finish for the Philippines had Reyes not crashed into an Indonesian rival in the opening lap of the final.

"I made a mistake passing the Indonesian boy from the outside on Turn Two," said Reyes.

In the Junior category, 11-year-old JetRacing team leader Javi Benitez scored two third runner-up finishes in the JuniorRok and Junior 125 Open classes pushing him to within striking distance in the overall standings behind leader Rio Harianto of Indonesia.

The team is now back in training with top junior coach and tuner, Elson Carpio, for the next leg of the Shell Super Series National Karting Championship slated in Cebu City on Sept. 9 and 10, as well as the Rok World Finals on Oct. 12 to 15 in Lonato, Italy.

Turalba, Orduna RP bets in Italy tourney

TWO TUASON RACING SCHOOL (TRS)-Tonykart Team Philippines drivers Juha Turalba and Joey Orduna will represent the country in the 2006 ROK Cup International Finals at the South Garda Karting Track in Lonato, Italy, Oct. 12-15.

Turalba will don the country's colors in the ROK Junior Championship being the ROK Junior points leader in the ongoing series while Orduna will be the country's bet in the Mini-ROK division.

The TRS-Tonykart Team Philippines, sponsored by Ready 2 Race Gear, Alpine stars, Petron Philippines, Oakley, Ford, Bosch, and HJC Racing Helmets, have placed the two young drivers under rigid training with high hopes of bringing home the glory.

"We're very proud these two products of our Tuason Racing School have grown into very competitive drivers at such young age and hopefully this event will help mold them into world class Filipino talents," said JP Tuason, president of the Tuason Racing School.

The 12-year-old Turalba, son of Antonio Jr. and the former Josephine Llamas, leads the ROK Junior class of the 2006 National Karting Series with 320 points following his runner-up finish in the last leg at the Enchanted Kingdom.

WINNERS ALL: Champions of the Philippine contingent that campaigned in several tournaments in the United States recently were feted during a thanksgiving party Friday night at the Manila Golf Club in Makati. From left: Abegail Arevalo (Pepsi Little People's), junior world champs Dottie Ardina, Mia Legazpi and Cyna Rodriguez, Andrea Unzon and AR Ramos (Country Classic). With them are Ton-Ton Arevalo (fourth in the Pepsi event, 5th in Country Youth) and Maan Legazpi (second in the US Kids).

MARATHON SECURITY: The Milo Marathon team led by Pat Goc-ong (2nd from left) and Rudy Biscocho (4th from left) paid a courtesy call to Caraga regional director Gen. Antonio Nanas (3rd from left) yesterday. Nanas assured them of his support for today's Milo Butuan City elimination run. With them are Chief Supt. Leonardo Manalo de la Cruz (2nd from right), Nestlé area distributor Nards Yu and leg organizer Ben Dacera.

Asian Gymkhana: Anton to represent RP

MULTITITLED RACER CARLOS Anton will again represent the Philippines in the second Asia Zone Gymkhana Championships set Sept. 9-10 in Indonesia.

Anton hopes to surpass his third place overall finish in last year's championship in Taiwan where the best drivers from 11 countries went head-to-head using identical cars for the crown.

"I'm excited to race for the country again and hope we can perform as well as we did in the last race," said Anton. "The competition is really tough cause all competitors are champions in their own countries, it will even be harder now cause the cars will be right hand drive.

"I'm also worried about the Indonesians. They came in fourth in the last round and I'm sure they will be out for victory on home soil."

It was one sterling performance for a first-timer in the event last year as Anton only lost to two Japanese aces—12-time all-Japan champion Tetsuya Yamano and 5-time Japan champion Masaki Nichihara.

The Indonesian race will see national champions from Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, Korea, Taiwan, Macau, Hong Kong, Sri-Lanka, India, Indonesia and the Philippines drive identical Suzuki 1500cc Aero cars.

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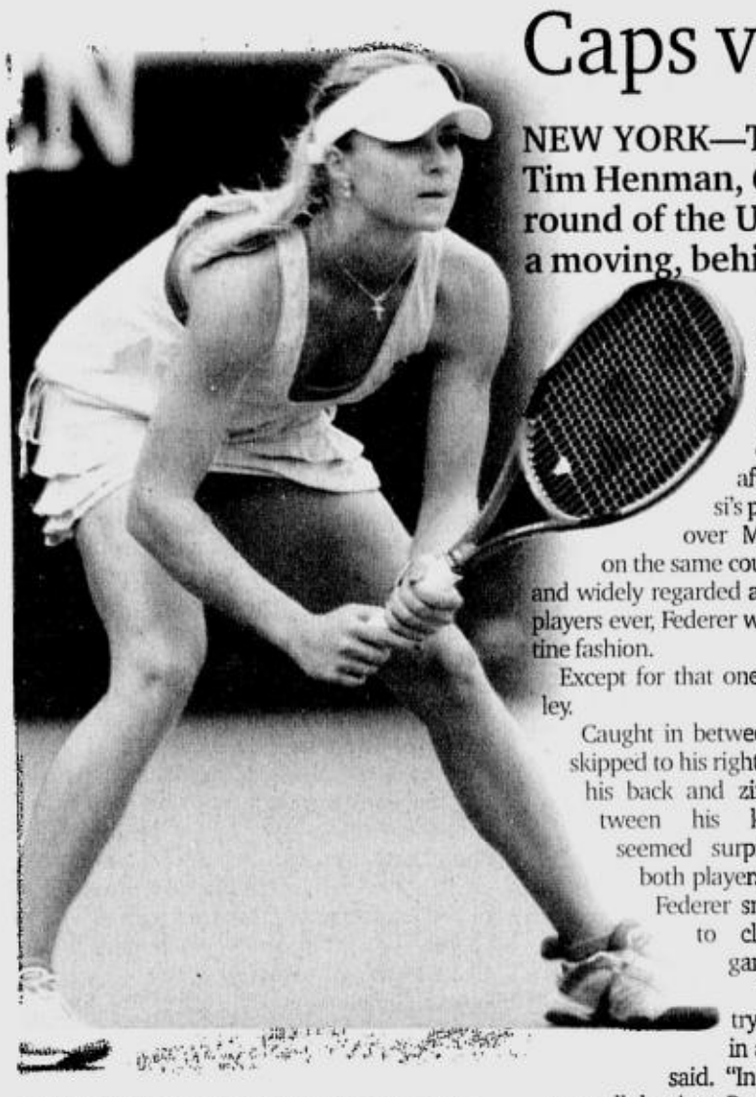
Federer ditches Henman

Caps victory with spectacular shot



MARIA Kirilenko of Russia waits for a serve from Aravane Rezai of France at the US Open tennis tournament. AP

NEW YORK—TOP-SEEDED ROGER FEDERER BEAT Tim Henman, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5, Friday to reach the third round of the US Open, punctuating his victory with a moving, behind-the-back volley between his legs.

Federer, trying for his third straight US Open championship, took the court 11 hours after Andre Agassi's palpitating victory over Marcos Baghdatis on the same court. Ranked No. 1 and widely regarded as one of the best players ever, Federer won in rather routine fashion.

Except for that one sensational volley.

Caught in between steps, Federer skipped to his right, reached around his back and zinged a shot between his knees. Henman seemed surprised and, with both players already smiling, Federer smacked a winner to close the fourth game in the final set.

"Rarely do you try this type of shot in a match," Federer said. "In practice, it happens all the time. But to come and pull it off on center court, you have to make sure you're not doing something totally stupid or you don't look like an idiot."

Said Henman: "There's not a lot you can say at that stage, apart from laugh."

In other early matches, second-seeded Justine Henin-Hardenne rallied past Ai Sugiyama, 4-6, 6-1, 6-0, and fellow former Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova defeated Anastassia Rodionova, 6-3, 6-0. Also, No. 19 Jelena Jankovic beat No. 9 Nicole Vaidisova, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

On the men's side, No. 7 Nikolay Davydenko won when Nicolas Mahut retired after losing, 6-0, in the first set, No. 10 Fernando Gonzalez beat Jan Hajek, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2, No. 12 Tomas Berdych downed Florian Mayer, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, and No. 14 Tommy Haas topped Raemon Sluiter, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Also, No. 17 Andy Murray stopped Alessio di Mauro, 6-0, 6-1, 6-1, No. 18 Robby Ginepri defeated Paul Goldstein, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4, and No. 21 Gaston Gaudio, a former French Open champion, beat American teen Sam Querrey, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Lindsay Davenport and Marat Safin were scheduled later, as were James Blake and Elena Dementieva.

In a tournament that already lost a day of rain, storms were supposed to move in shortly.

Federer was ready for a full day, only he preferred it was at night.

"You have a more electrifying atmosphere," he said. "The conditions were tough today. Breezy, chilly, early."

Federer, like many of the people straggling into Arthur Ashe Stadium, stayed up late to follow Agassi.

"I watched it till the end. Fantastic. Loved it," he said. "I get nervous myself watching this stuff, like a fan. Get cold feet. I was in the bed, going under the blanket almost."

"I enjoyed last night's match so much, I wouldn't mind playing five sets myself," he said.

Henman began the day with a 6-5 career record against Federer, tied with Rafael Nadal among active players for the most wins against him. Federer evened the series, beating Henman for the fifth straight time.

Even when Henman thought he had Federer, he didn't. Like on that one superb shot.

"I actually hit what I though was going to be a perfect volley. He's actually then in the wrong position," Henman said. "But because he has no time to think about it, it was just a split-second reaction, but he executed it fairly well."

"Funny shots happen. It's not really something that you can plan. It is such an instinctive thing," he said. "I've played behind-my-back volleys and stuff, but not like that." AP

US 5 beats Argentina for bronze

SAITAMA, JAPAN—DWYANE WADE SCORED 18 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter, helping the United States pull away for a 96-81 victory over Argentina on Saturday in basketball world championships bronze medal game.

LeBron James added 20 points for the Americans, which could only match the bronze it won two years ago in Athens. This victory gave the Americans some measure of revenge from that disappointment, coming against the team that had beaten them in the semifinals two years ago.

In a spectacular performance similar to those he delivered while winning MVP honors at the NBA finals, Wade was 10-of-14 from the field and made all three 3-point attempts—he was 2-of-15 behind the arc coming into game. He fell three points shy of the American record Carmelo Anthony set earlier in the tournament.

Anthony capped a strong tournament with 15 points as the Americans bounced back from their 101-95 loss to Greece a night earlier. James finished with nine rebounds and seven assists.

Argentina (7-2) was trying for its third straight medal in a major event after winning silver in the 2002 world championships and gold two years ago in Athens—with victories over the United States during both.

But the Argentineans couldn't overcome foul trouble to Manu Ginobili, Fabricio Oberto and Luis Scola, the mainstays of those teams. All three spent significant time on the bench in the second half.

Ginobili, the San Antonio Spurs star, didn't make a field goal until midway through the fourth quarter and finished with 10 points. Scola led Argentina with 19 points. AP

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MCGRADY: I sometimes surprise myself. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Impossible means nothing to NBA superstar McGrady

By Francis Ochoa

THE REALIZATION CAME TO Tracy McGrady more like the slow approach of morning than a sudden blast of light from a fog lamp.

It dawned on him at an early age that his career path would lead him to parquet floors, loud coliseums and NBA all-star appearances.

"I think it was in my senior year," McGrady, the superstar swingman of the Houston Rockets, said in a one-on-one interview with the INQUIRER. "I was playing really good games, people were starting to notice and all of a sudden, I was the nation's top player."

That coronation as the best among high school cagers had McGrady reeling in NBA scouts to every playing venue where he was the marquee attraction.

And the talk among those who constantly watched him centered on how good enough he would be leaping straight from high school and to the pros.

"People were comparing me to Kobe [Bryant] and Kevin Garnett, guys who also made the leap from high school to the NBA and were successful at it," McGrady, popularly known as T-Mac, said in his second visit to the country.

And so, from a standout at the Adidas camp where McGrady credits the formation of his basketball fundamentals, to a star at the Mt. Zion Christian Academy, the 6-foot-8 leaper joined a string of phenoms who ditched the college experience for an NBA career.

"Basketball is basketball," McGrady said of his decision. "I knew I was physically ready to play in the NBA and all I had to do was get ready mentally."

His evolution into a superstar, however, traveled on a crawl. Unable to find his place with the Toronto Raptors, McGrady signed up with the Orlando Magic in 2000. It was with the Magic that he really came to his own, transforming himself into a franchise player whose basketball growth served as the backbone for Adidas' "Impossible is Nothing" ad campaign.

McGrady, who owns a rare lifetime contract with the popular footwear and sports apparel brand, believes in the tagline so much that he has snatched his team from imminent defeats with jaw-dropping moves that also shock him.

"I honestly still sometimes see myself on TV highlights doing things that leave me asking 'how in the world did I do that?'" said McGrady, who added that he would have been playing for the New York Yankees by now had he not been into basketball.

But that's a moot "what-if."

Right now, the 29-year-old star, who has his own line of T-Mac shoes, is one of basketball's biggest names and it is not a stretch to say that he is bound to be enshrined in the list of the sport's all-time greats when his basketball journey ends.

When that happens, "I want people to remember me not just as a great player but a great person who gave everything for his team night in and night out."

No matter how impossible the situation may have been.

Website: www.inq7money.net

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** business@inquirer.com.ph

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AyalaLandPREMIER

New Anvaya Cove neighborhood offers intimate brushes with nature

A community that allows its residents to live close to wooded areas, the soothing sounds of a brook and other natural amenities and while enjoying intimate ties with one another is the vision behind Wood Park - the newest neighborhood in Anvaya Cove. Anvaya Cove is Ayala Land Premier's 1st leisure seaside development located in Morong, Bataan.

The seven-hectare neighborhood which has an elevation ranging from 50 to 70 meters is also dotted with parkia javanica or cupang trees. It is a short drive away from Ilingin Cove and the amenities of the Nature Club. "Wood Park has been designed as a nature retreat where one can enjoy a hilly environment and at the same time have quick access to beach and sea amenities," according to Bong Gonzalez, project development manager.

Wood Park is one of several neighborhoods in Anvaya Cove - each with its own distinct features. Set in a lush, open area, this neighborhood has a brook running through the property also has glimpses of the sea and sunset.

The Brookside lots run parallel to the brook lined by mature trees and shrubs. A bridge crossing the brook provides a sweeping view of the area. On the southern part of the neighborhood are the Greenview lots which offer a vista of lush open spaces in undulating terrain. The Leisure lots provide homeowners a sunset view.

To further enhance the neighborhood's courtside view of the fading, afternoon sun, planners of Wood Park has located a Sunset Park at the heart of the neighborhood. Wood Park's Sunset Drive will naturally offer motorists and promenaders glimpses of the sea and the natural finale of many Anvaya afternoons.

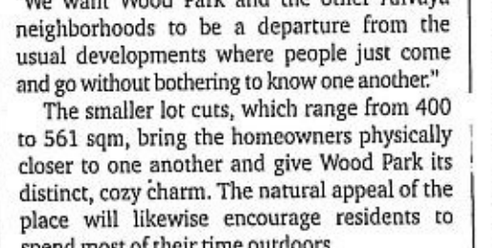
Like the rest of the Anvaya neighborhoods, Wood Park will be a fenceless community. Homeowners will be strongly discouraged from erecting the usual cement fences that traditionally border one's property line and dampen social interaction among neighbors. "We want Wood Park and the other Anvaya neighborhoods to be a departure from the usual developments where people just come and go without bothering to know one another."

The smaller lot cuts, which range from 400 to 561 sqm, bring the homeowners physically closer to one another and give Wood Park its distinct, cozy charm. The natural appeal of the place will likewise encourage residents to spend most of their time outdoors.

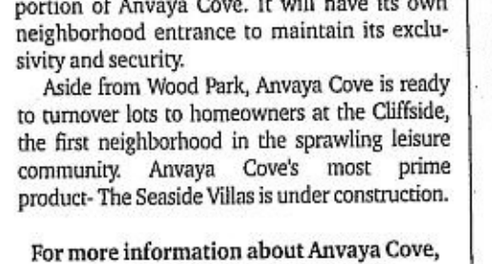
Wood Park is located at the southeast portion of Anvaya Cove. It will have its own neighborhood entrance to maintain its exclusivity and security.

Aside from Wood Park, Anvaya Cove is ready to turnover lots to homeowners at the Cliffside, the first neighborhood in the sprawling leisure community. Anvaya Cove's most prime product- The Seaside Villas is under construction.

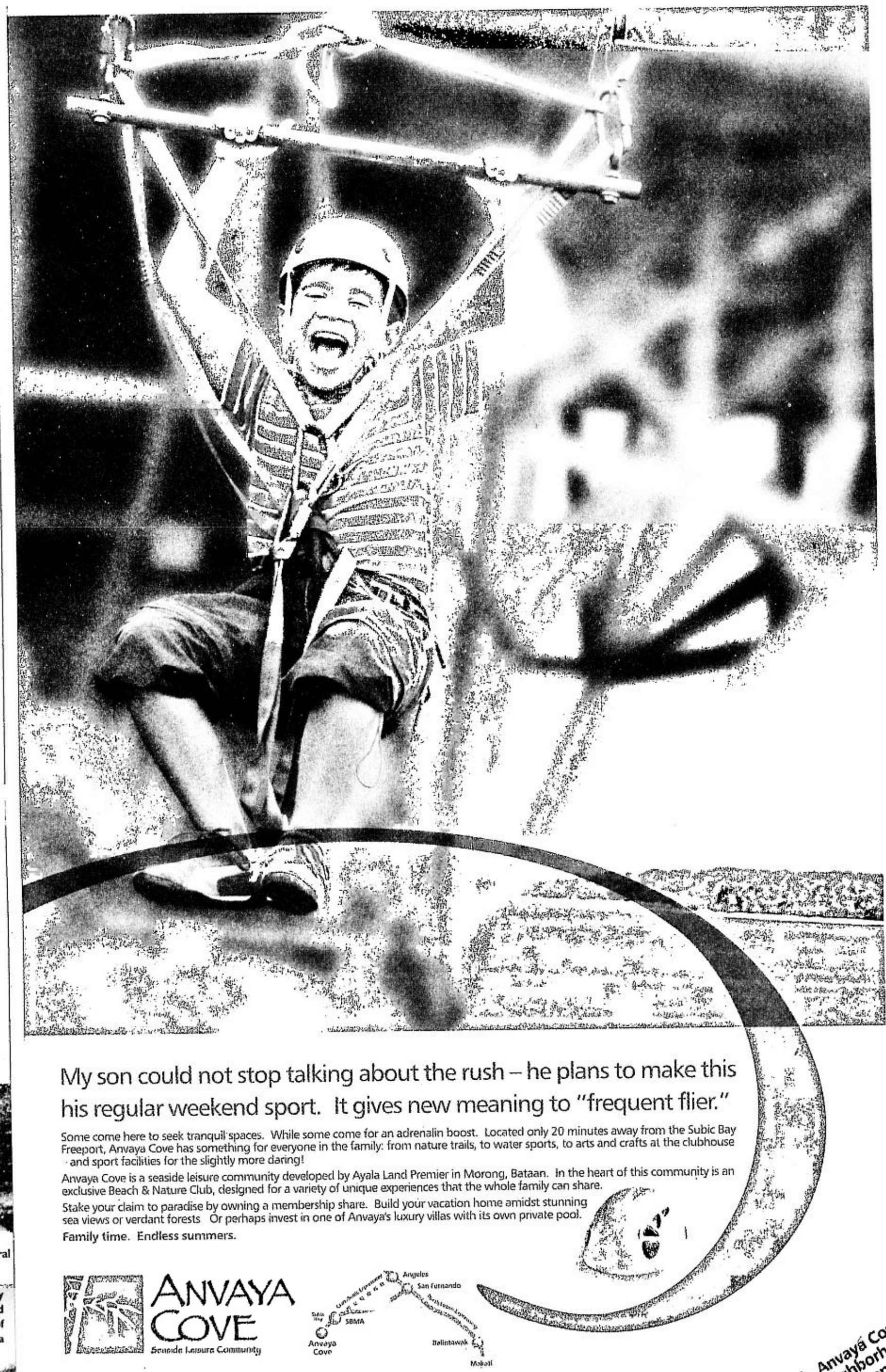
For more information about Anvaya Cove, please call 728-7000 or visit its website at www.anvayacove.com or www.ayalalandpremier.com.



Wood Park's Brookside Trails - Enter the neighborhood by crossing a bridge over a natural brook lined by picturesque trails



Sunset Drive will naturally offer motorists and promenaders glimpses of the sea



My son could not stop talking about the rush – he plans to make this his regular weekend sport. It gives new meaning to "frequent flier."

Some come here to seek tranquil spaces. While some come for an adrenalin boost. Located only 20 minutes away from the Subic Bay Freeport, Anvaya Cove has something for everyone in the family: from nature trails, to water sports, to arts and crafts at the clubhouse and sport facilities for the slightly more daring!

Anvaya Cove is a seaside leisure community developed by Ayala Land Premier in Morong, Bataan. In the heart of this community is an exclusive Beach & Nature Club, designed for a variety of unique experiences that the whole family can share.

Stake your claim to paradise by owning a membership share. Build your vacation home amidst stunning sea views or verdant forests Or perhaps invest in one of Anvaya's luxury villas with its own private pool.

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Wood Park, Anvaya Cove's newest neighborhood is now open for reservations.

From sandman to shoe man

Janylin shoes founder was breadwinner at 12

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

LONG BEFORE management gurus extolled the need for companies to have a vision, Juan Janeo, a man who barely finished elementary, nurtured one for 17 years before turning it into a reality.

The vision was to set up his own shoemaking business with his own brand. This vision today is the Janylin line of fashionable women's shoes which has 16 outlets and sales of 100,000 pairs of shoes a year.

The name Janylin comes from Jany, Janeo's nickname and the second syllable of his wife's name—Erlinda.

The cost to start Jany's vision was P200. The year was 1962.

The growth of Janylin the past 40 years was achieved without advertising. Its brand became known purely from the quality of work and designs of the shoes.

Recently, Janylin went into a tie up with a credit card firm—the HSBC Red MasterCard in a promo where new applicants get a new pair of Janylin shoes worth P1,600. Its only marketing foray in four decades.

Jany's three children, all involved in the business say they can hardly cope with the demand of the local market. SM department stores carry the shoes with a different brand—Janeo.

Those who don Janylin shoes include Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and singer-actress Sharon Cuneta.

The P200 capital in 1962 was enough to make about 20 pairs of shoes. At that time, materials for one pair cost P8. The finished product was sold for P10.

Although Janylin shoes have grown and will continue to expand its outlets, it is also beset by problems facing the industry—lack of raw materials, insufficient skilled workers and stiff competition from cheap shoes from China.

At 74, Jany is still involved in the day to day operations of the business, including making shoes. Most of Janylin's shoes are still handcrafted. It is only now that he is trying to replicate himself by training his son-in-law Ponchi Santos in the dying craft.

And at his age, Jany still dreams of going to Italy to study shoemaking and buy a machine or two to make his operations more efficient and create better quality shoes.

He speaks in pure Filipino. No 'taglish' for this man, who at 12, became the breadwinner of the family. Back in the late 40s when the Americans had just taken the Philippines from the Japanese, he took on a job few men would take to feed his four siblings.

Jany worked as a "*magbubuhangin*." From five in the morning, Janeo, with a few men with stomachs to take on the job, would go to the river bank, dig for sand, and load this to waiting trucks for construction companies.

That was the easy part. When the sand was depleted in the river bank, the "*magbubuhangin*" had to go into the water and to get the sand beneath. Well and good when their heads could still go beyond the water but eventually they had to go deeper into the river to get sand.

ERLINDA continues to design the popular shoes.

Jany says when they were under ten feet of water, a boat with a bamboo pole would be on standby. They would hold their breathe, go under water holding on to the pole, fill up a pail with sand, and climb the pole again to dump the sand in the boat.

This they did from dawn to dusk for about five years. No goggles were used.

His body would be red, sunburned, covered with sores and his skin peeling. But he persisted because the job paid well—P7 a day, compared to the P4 a week his brother got from shoemaking.

Jany says he had to be the breadwinner because he was physically stronger than an older brother. His father died before the Japanese war broke out and his mother died after the liberation.

After five years, at which time a sister had already finished school, Jany decided to take on an easier job. He joined his brother in shoemaking. From the first day, he knew he wanted to eventually go on his own.

He devoted the next 17 years of his life learning every aspect of the craft. He lived in Santolan in Pasig, a stone's throw from Marikina, where the shoemaking industry in the Philippines started. He would go to San Roque in Marikina to work from Mondays to Saturdays and go home briefly on Sundays.

He started work at dawn and finished by midnight each day—to make sure he earned enough to support his family, save something for his future business; and learn as much as possible. He worked so hard, his first daughter, Josie, would cry when she saw him at home. He had become a stranger to her.

LOVE REMAINS. Jany refuses to hire a driver because he likes to go on long drives alone with his wife Erlinda.

By 1962, with savings of P200, Jany set on his own supported by wife Erlinda, also an orphan.

They made a good pair—Erlinda had also been trained in shoe making. She designed and cut the shoe upper—the top part of the shoes. Jany made the shoes. Their shoes, carrying the Janylin brand were sold in the market or the dressmakers' shops. At that time there were no ready to wear clothes. All clothes were tailor fit. Their shoes would be worn by the mannequins on the display windows.

Janylin shoes were sold at the Sta. Mesa Market where SM Centerpoint stands today. They also supplied Regine's shoes in Cartimar.

Their first big break came with a vinyl see-through shoe design. At that time nobody could stick the vinyl with glue. Jany discovered a way to do it. Remson's shoes saw the display and ordered dozens of the shoes. This became their first bestseller. They soon had a shop in Cartimar—Remson by Janylin Shoes.

Janylin Shoes slowly earned a good reputation. Henry Sy himself invited Jany to sell his shoes in Shoemart in the 70s, at its Carriedo store. But Sy asked that Jany use his last name as the brand. He agreed and Jany created Janeo. That was in the 70s.

Janylin was also part of the Marikina Shoe Expo—a row of shops selling shoes made in Marikina. The move undertaken by the Marikina government to revive the shoe industry. But the effort was futile as the industry had already been beset by many problems such as lack of workers or mismanagement. Some of the shoemakers went into exports but were unable to meet the orders.

Janylin however focused in the Manila market and expanded its outlets—Shoppesville, Park Square in Makati, Landmark and eventually Glorietta. Today Janylin, via The Sole Search Corp., continues to expand.

Its founder, Mang Jany, still works in the place he started in four decades ago. The difference is the small shack he and his wife used to live in is now a three story building that houses the factory and office.

He and his children live across the street. The place, although provincial, and far from where the action is where most women go to in their shoes, remains home to the Janeo family.

JANYLIN shoes made by the The Sole Search Corp. is a family affair. Mang Jany continues to go to the factory everyday and would work on a pair of shoes. Right photo shows son-in-law Ponchi Santos, daughters Cecie and Josie, only son Jun and Erlinda.

Bibingka helps send this man's kids to school

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

MANDAUE CITY—The business of *bibingka* (rice cake) making may not seem like much, but to Zosimo Q. Mayol, known here as the "Bibingka King," it not only provides livelihood for the family but also sends his children to school.

Mayol, whose *bibingka* is a local top seller, says he has been using an original recipe developed in the 1800s, with just a few revisions. The recipe came from his great grandfather Pablo and inherited by his grandfather Maximo and father Lorenzo.

The basic ingredients for the original rice cake of Mandaue are ground rice, coconut milk, white sugar and yeast. The taste, however, varies from one maker to another, depending on how they measure and mix the ingredients.

"I was still 12 or 13 years old, when I started helping out in the family business. While there were many who knew how to make *bibingka* in Mandaue, my grandmother was the first who thought of making a business out of it," he says in Cebuano.

The other makers sell their products only during the fiesta, Mayol recalls. At that time, they sold three pieces of *bibingka* for 10 centavos.

Now, Cebu has eight or nine *bibingka* makers, but but they could not match the taste of Mandaue's *bibingka*, he points out.

PHOTOS BY TONEE DESPOJO

MANDAUE City's bibingka king Zosimo Q. Mayol explains how his family makes the rice cakes, using the secret recipe developed by his great grandfather.

The family business was discontinued when his mother died in the late 1980s and it was not until the mid-1990s when Mayol decided to revive it. At that time, he saw that his take-home pay was not enough to pay for his sons' education.

Mayol resigned as supervisor from a furniture company, where he had worked for 20 years, to put up his venture.

With P2,000 as initial capital, Mayol and his wife established Mayol's Delicacies. Mayol prepares the ingredients while his wife cooks—a job that took about 12 hours or from midnight till noon. On Saturdays, they start cooking at 8 p.m. and finish at noon the next day.

His mother's former customers started buying from him and, by word of mouth, his client base grew.

WRAPPED in banana leaves, the bibingka (rice cake) is a popular delicacy among Cebuanos.

His sons help out in the business. One delivers at 5 a.m. every day while the others prepare the ingredients.

Despite the presence of many competitors, Mayol's product is the most sought after. What makes his product different from the rest is the process and the quality of ingredients used.

While other makers use a machine to grind rice, Mayol has his family's antique mortar and wooden pestles. He uses quality ingredients to maintain product standards.

MAYOL'S wife, Leah, does the cooking, which takes about 12 hours

Mayol does not use ovens for cooking, but follows the ancient way of placing hot embers on top of and below the mould. One *bibingka* takes 8-12 minutes to cook.

Mayol's Delicacies makes up to 240 pieces of bibingka on regular days and an additional 100 pieces on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Despite the growing competition, Mayol is convinced that he made the right decision to go into business. Two of his sons have graduated from college, one is taking up engineering, and two others are in high school. In fact, he is thinking of expanding his business.

To respond to the increasing demand for his product, Mayol plans to move to a bigger area but this would require more capital. He also intends to improve the cooking area because many students and some foreigners come to observe how *bibingka* is made.

He is also developing new recipes, such as the "special" bibingka, which contains eggs and condensed milk as additional ingredients.

Have P4 million? Set up a spa

NATUR WELNESS, INC., about a year old in the beauty and wellness industry, has opened the BlueWater Day Spa. which it is already offering for franchising.

A member of the Spa Association of the Philippines, BSLBA (Barangay San Lorenzo Business Association Inc.) and Philippine Franchise Association, BlueWater is one of the day spas in the country, which pioneered the traditional Filipino massage and healing known as "hilot."

"Ours is perfected through mastery of the native strokes by our well-trained masseuses. Plus, we use an Aromatic Herbal Pact that removes what the old folks call as '*lamig*' or '*hangin*' in the body," says general manager Sonny Ching.

BlueWater also has the Crystal Massage Therapy. This is based on the ancient belief that crystals can cure mental, physical and emotional discomforts.

The crystals are placed at strategic points around the body's center of energy in order to attain the state of balance and total relaxation.

Its menu inlcudes Sports Massage (especially designed for the athletes and sports-buffs), Hawaiian Lomi-Lomi (use of plams, thumbs, knuckles and forearms in rhythmic dance-like motions) and Tui Na (Asian bodywork from China that encourages free flow of positive energy).

Its licensed aestheticians and massage therapists, were trained by the Hong Kong's International Spa and Beauty College, a wellness academy owned by an Indian national Ranjeet Kour, who has 20 years of solid experience in the spa and wellness industry.

"We are welcoming the idea of franchising. The demand is definitely growing. The captured market is increasing. Honestly, the spa industry is an enticing business niche with a faithful promise of good profit," says Ching.

BlueWater franchising packages range from P1.7 million to P4.5 million. A Foot Reflex Package will cost around P1.5 million; Foot Reflex and Facial Basic, P2 million; Foot Reflex and Facial Advance (with imported facial machines), P2.5 million ; BlueWater Day Spa (all massages) and Facial Basic, P4 million; and Bluewater Day Spa, Facial Advance, and Clinic, P4.5 million.

The package includes franchise fee, the initial investment also covers design and construction, working capital, security deposit, initial inventory, business-related machines, massage chairs and beds.

The franchise fee, on the other hand, is paid for the following: Use of name and trademark of corporate logos, preopening and start up assistance, extensive initial training on spa orientation and services as well as the most modern massage techniques, aromatherapies, spa technology, grand opening support, and a continuous marketing and promotional support, among others.

For inquiries, call BlueWater Day Spa at 723-4932, 723-5534, fax 726-2043.

Sisterhood of Mindanao market vendors

Group helps women learn and earn more

By Rita Festin
ADB National Officer

AT THE MARKET IN PANABO, in the southern Philippine province of Davao del Norte, times have been hard for 68-year-old vendor Remedios Homesillo.

"It's so difficult nowadays to sell—we need a new livelihood," says this mother of nine and grandmother of 20, who with her husband has been selling meat at the market for the best part of six decades.

Balancing parenthood with eking out a meager living has not been easy for any of the vendors. And with business now on the downturn, there is often little for them to do but sit and gossip.

But a new project has been trying to bring new hope and incomes to the vendors to help break them out of the cycle of poverty and debt, by teaching them new skills, improving working conditions, and in the process helping them become better parents.

Backed by a $1 million grant from ADB's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, financed by the government of Japan, the project is targeting about 1,600 poor women vendors in public markets in eight areas of Mindanao. Aside from Panabo, these include Mahayag, Zamboanga del Sur; Ozamiz, Misamis Occidental; Kidapawan City, Cotabato; Surigao City, Surigao del Norte; Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte; and in the towns of Buluan and Parang in Maguindanao.

Women's resource center

An important feature of the project is the establishment in each town of a women's resource center (WRC) to provide space for training, a drop-in clinic, daycare for pre-schoolers, and cold storage, lockers, and wash rooms, all available at a minimal fee.

The WRCs have become the nerve center for all the women's activities where they can meet and interact like a sisterhood, says Myrna Lim, executive director of the Notre Dame Foundation for Charitable Activities Inc. Women Enterprise Development (NDFCAI-WED), the project's implementing agency.

"The project ... hopes to provide sustainable gender-sensitive social safety nets for women market vendors [and] improve the quality of their working environment," she says.

Vendors have hailed the centers as a place where they can socialize and group together, rather than simply face problems on their own.

"It's a place where we can get closer to each other, see each other often. Not like before where we did not know each other and we were on our own," says 31-year-old Geraldine Aguia, a vendor in Panabo City and mother of three. "We now have someone to turn to and we just do not go direct to City Hall. If we go individually, there is no action. As a group, we have their ear because we are more powerful."

Change didn't come easy. In Panabo City, attendance at training sessions was at first poor because vendors were reluctant to leave their stalls and sacrifice sales. Since most of them start their day at the market at 4:30 a.m., they found it a burden to attend a full-day of training from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. But once they realized the benefits, attendance picked up drastically.

Gabriela Ocaña, a 49-year-old mother of two who sells fruits for a living, attended customer service seminars and soap-making training. "I have sold some soap, and my family uses my own soap so we have also reduced our expenses," she says.

Popular with the vendors is training on preparing and handling food. Jean Sotto, 50, who has been running an eatery for the past 20 years, has used the training to extend her culinary knowledge so she can diversify into new food items, such as desserts. Her sister, Elvira Senuino, 55, who assists her, attended training in Christmas decoration making and was able to sell P2,000 worth last year.

Vendors are also taking up herbal medicine, hair styling, dressmaking, and nail care, among others.

A requirement before market vendors can benefit from the project is for them to be formally organized, including electing a board. Their association gives them an independent voice separate from the larger federation that includes male members.

Recognizing the potent political force that the women wield, the vendors' associations have attracted strong backing from local politicians.

ELVIRA Senuino, 55, shows her Christmas décor which she sells for P150 each.

THE WOMEN vendors of Panabo City learn how to make "kropeck," a snack food.

In Panabo City, the mayor has agreed to provide a P200,000 microfinance revolving fund. In Ozamiz City, the mayor's office provides health services through the Women's Resource Center. And in Mahayag, the mayor immediately provided temporary stalls for the vendors when stalls were damaged in a market fire earlier this year.

The eight project areas are also benefiting under the ADB-funded Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (MBUSSP), which is upgrading and rehabilitating much-needed infrastructure through a $30-million loan.

In Mahayag, the newly built municipal hall is funded with P14-million from the project, with the JFPR-funded Women's Resource Center for the vendors standing by its side. From being the dirtiest municipality in Mindanao in 1997, with a 1960s municipal town hall, Mahayag has turned around its image to become the second cleanest municipality in the province this year.

The town mayor says the building has directly helped Mahayag raise more revenues, which in turn led to their being upgraded into a third class municipality in 2005. Department of Interior and Local Government Assistant Secretary Austere Panadero was so impressed by the building that he called it the "best municipal building in the whole Mindanao" during its inauguration in March 2005.

"We are proud of this building. Before, Mahayag looked like it was left behind," declares Mayor Paulino Fanilag. "Now, no more. People pay their taxes because they can see where their taxes go."

The WRCs and the infrastructure projects under MBUSSP are being completed one after another. In Panabo City, a new bus and jeepney terminal that will put the city on the map will rise by the end of this year, and women market vendors will have stalls there as well. In Ozamiz City, a new and modern two-story public market will soon be built to replace the completely dilapidated existing building where, as women market vendors often joke about, it rains both inside and outside during the wet season.

MERCY Alforque, a 50-year-old vegetable vendor in Ozamiz City, wants to learn about hair-trimming, manicure and pedicure.

MARIA Sol Suico, a 38-year old fish vendor in Ozamiz City, has attended food processing, nutrition and health seminars.

"I am very happy that this project came to Mindanao," says Loli Aginones, a 50-year-old mother of three who learned to bake and sell peanut butter, tarts, and macaroons through the project. "It's a big help to the women of Panabo. At the same time, I enjoy what I'm doing."

In Mahayag, a word that means "to illuminate" in the local dialect, poor women market vendors can indeed look forward to a brighter future.

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What it takes to be a coffee farmer

PLANTING COFFEE AS A PRIMARY CROP has never been more attractive for Filipino farmers today than a decade ago, especially since coffee is enjoying its highest trading price for the past two years.

"For the last two years world market coffee price has hovered above P50—one of the highest trading prices since it plummeted to P27 in 2002 because of surpluses from Vietnam," says Zenon Alenton, resident agronomist for Nestle Experimental and Demonstration Farm (NEDF) in Tagum City, Davao.

However, Alenton is quick to stress that good market price is not the only reason why farmers should take up coffee anew. Nescafe, the country's best selling instant coffee, has been actively promoting coffee-based sustainable farming system (CBSFS) since three years ago in line with the sustainable agriculture initiative of Nestle (SAIN).

Its sustainable farming system encourages farmers to use coffee as a main crop and a variety of secondary crops to provide additional or alternative income for the farmers. Since rows of coffee trees are ideally planted five meters apart, CBSFS promotes the planting of companion crops to maximize the space.

Although ampalaya, bell pepper, cabbage, eggplant, kamote, lettuce, peanuts, spring onions, string beans, ube and upland kangkong, are ideal candidates, Alenton says it's better if the farmers determine the most in-demand produce in their local market. Mid-sized fruit-bearing plants and trees like banana, cantaloupe, honeydew melon, lanzones, papaya and rambutan are also good since these plants will not compete for sunlight and water with the coffee trees.

Coffee is the second most consumed beverage in the world next to water. Next to oil, it is the second most valued commodity in the world.

A coffee plant is very adaptive to all types of soil and is highly suited to the Philippines' tropical climate. The Robusta variety, which Nescafe uses to manufacture the country's best selling coffee Nescafe Classic, has high pest attack tolerability.

"Aside from having ready market for their produce, coffee farmers enjoy good and high-yielding planting materials available locally," says Alenton. "Through this farm, we also offer coffee farmers free training and technology."

Established in 1994, NEDF offers farmers and agriculture students free technical training in coffee agriculture. It also serves as a venue for experiment and production of coffee planting materials. It sells Robusta seeds, and plantings, and fertilizer at cost price.

Nestle Philippines Inc., makers of Nescafe, also supports coffee farmers through its buying policy. It commits to purchase all coffee produced in the country at a suitable price based on the prevailing world market price and Nescafe coffee grading system. Green coffee beans are bought directly from farmers through various buying stations located in various parts of the country.

"One of the biggest assistance that we have given farmers so far is the initiation of direct procurement system (DPS) which totally eliminates the purchase orders to coffee suppliers," says Alenton. Started in 1990, DPS enables farmers to sell directly to Nestle through its 10 buying stations spread across the country.

"Today Nescafe buys around 80 percent of the local farmers' total green coffee bean (GCB) output," tells Alenton.

Alenton reveals the biggest obstacle for prospective coffee farmers remains to be financing. A one-hectare coffee plantation generally requires a maximum of P60,000 initial investment for the first two years which goes to planting materials, labor, fertilizer and farming equipment. In mono-coffee plantation, one hectare of land can accommodate 1,667 coffee trees spread at 2x3 meter row. In the sustainable coffee farming program, one hectare of land can fit 1,000 coffee trees at 2x5 meter row. While Nescafe cannot provide the farmer's initial capital investment, he says Nescafe can give them big savings on Robusta plantings, not to mention the free technical assistance they provide. NEDF sells Robusta planting at cost price of P8 each versus P10 to P12 anywhere else.

"While it will take 18 to 20 months for a farmer to harvest his first coffee cherries, he can augment his initial investment by planting secondary crops like peanuts, which can be harvested every three months," explains Proceso Cortejos, another NEDF agriculturist.

Under CSBFS, a farmer can plant 50 kilos of peanut seedlings in one hectare of coffee farm. A good harvest will yield him 5,000 kilos of peanuts and at current market price of P40 to P50, the sale will be more than enough to cover the initial investment. The prospect of harvesting 1,000 to 1,500 kilos of coffee in the next year will be the best icing on the cake.

As of today, Alenton and the rest of NEDF's agronomists are currently offering free lectures and brochures on CSBFS in NEDF. They are also available for free on-site trainings anywhere in the Philippines.

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Sunday BIZ

VIEW of the coffee shop and bakery

American bets on GenSan

Sets up three businesses in one building

By Aquiles Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS City—Kenneth Johnston and wife Gina Perez recently inaugurated a three-story commercial building at Magsaysay Avenue corner Beatiles Extension in this city.

The inauguration is not the story. The story is that an American decided to retire and invest his money in the Philippines. Not just any place in the Philippines but in a city perceived as lacking in peace and order.

"Wherever you go, there's always a problem around. There's no perfect place anywhere. You can run but you can't hide," is what Johnston, 54, says about the peace and order condition in General Santos City and Mindanao.

Kenneth and his wife Gina led the inauguration of the building which contains a three-in-one shop.

Guests included a priest, Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr., a select number of close family friends who stood by Gina's side during her most trying times.

"They (friends) were around through thick and thin especially when I was still struggling," Gina told the INQUIRER.

Kenneth met Gina while they were working for Relive International, a company engaged in direct selling of food supplements. Gina was the managing director for the Philippines, while Kenneth was her counterpart in the US.

He attributed much of his success to his wife and their strong faith in God. Both are devout Catholics.

Kenneth says, "It's amazing how much I've grown up just because of her mere presence."

She describes Gina, who is two months pregnant with their first baby, as strong-willed and a woman for all season who "can accomplish too much in so short a time."

"Instead of sleeping, I think she stays wide awake thinking how we can further improve our business. She's jack-of-all-trades, master of most. She's smarter than I am. Sometimes, I think she's half a machine," Kenneth says.

New home

"I find Gensan an attractive place to retire. The people here are very congenial. The city is not too big and not too small. I feel at home and the area we've chosen is very relaxing. I believe in the future of GenSan and that's the reason why I am staking my future here," Kenneth says.

He said he did a thorough research not only about GenSan but including the islands of Mindanao. It took him about two years to decide to stay here for good.

But what convinced him, Kenneth says, were articles in the "Gensan Page," a website designed by British Web designer and businessman Bob Martin.

Martin, whose wife Feyma is a resident of this city, wrote in the website: "My name is Bob Martin. I'm not from General Santos City, I'm not even a Filipino, but I love the city and the entire country of the Philippines, and that is why I decided to put up this page. It's been a great learning experience for me and I'm glad that I did so."

DIMSUM Diner and office space at the second floor

Asked about his experience in the city, Kenneth says: "I feel safer here than in Southern California.

He grew up in Cypress, Southern California, about 15 minutes by car from Disneyland.

He says that before departing for the Philippines in February 2005, 17 shooting incidents took place in the Freeway in Southern California.

"I'm glad I found a new home," he says.

He arrived here on Feb. 14, 2005, the day when bombs jolted Makati, General Santos and Davao killing at least seven people and wounding nearly 100 others.

Kenneth says he did not get scared.

"When it's your time already, you'll die wherever you are," he says.

Three-in-one

The Johnston couple is a franchise holder of Dimsum Diner, a Chinese restaurant chain. Beside the restaurant, which is at the ground floor, the couple put up a bakery and a coffee shop.

"I want something different. This place is for the whole family and for the people from all walks of life. You can come here anytime and drink coffee while writing your story on the laptop," he says.

Kenneth says other businessmen could also put up their shops in his building.

The second floor of the building is divided into a function room and office spaces for rental.

Two rooms are devoted for Gina's realty business.

The couple has 45 employees on three shifting schedules assigned at the restaurant, bakery and coffee shop.

This is the first three-in-one shop in the city, which operates for 24 hours.

Obsession

Gina plans to expand their business by putting up a subdivision.

However, right now, they want to focus on running their newly opened business.

When asked what she thinks are the secret formula for the success in business, she says, "faith in God, believe in yourself and treat the workers fairly."

Renewed confidence

Mayor Acharon says the Johnston couple's decision to put up business here is one indication of renewed investors' confidence in the city.

Data from the City Economic Management and Cooperative Development Office (Cemcdo) showed the amount of investments, both local and foreign, increased to P549 million last year compared to only about P379 million in 2004.

ENTIRE view of Johnston Building along Magsaysay Avenue corner Beatiles Street in General Santos City PHOTOS BY AQUILES Z. ZONIO

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

'De kahon'

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

SOME TIME IN MY LIFE I heard that UP was offering a Ph.D. in creative writing. I said, Wow, *pagkakataon ko na*. I wanted so much to take up the course but then my friend Myrza Sison said, "*Siguro hindi ka na puwede riyan kasi ang inaaral namin* short stories *mo*."

Well, that's good, I thought. Now I'll finally find out what my colleagues think of me.

Then I asked Dr. Jing (Cristina Pantoja) Hidalgo of the UP faculty, who is my friend, if I should take up this Creative Writing Ph.D. She hemmed and she hawed and then said, "*Ay naku*, Gilda, *may* poststructuralist theory *diyan, may* semiotics, *may* postcolonial theory, *may* hermeneutics *at marami pa*."

Sub-text: "*Baka hindi ka pumasa*."

E bakit ako di papasa! Akala ko ba doctor of "creative writing"! *Alam kong sulatin ang kini*-critique-critique *nila*—essay, short story, poem *kung mapilitan, nobela pa rin, bakit hindi puwedeng pumasa*?

Come to think of it, I had trouble with my master's degree in Ateneo, too. My classmates were doing theses on Katherine Ann Porter, James Joyce, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, T.S. Eliot, cribbing from every book they could get hold of. I just didn't know how to do that. All I knew was how to be orig all the way.

So one day I told the dean: I have 13 short stories that I can make into a book. Why don't you give me a break and let that be my thesis? That was 1960. I had four children by the time I got my MA diploma and "The Butcher, the Baker, the Candlestick Maker" became the first-ever creative writing thesis approved by Ateneo.

Sa mundong ito, kung orig ka, lagot ka. Alam ninyo naman 'yon di ba? Siguro mas marami kayong experience *diyan kaysa sa akin.*

Square

The shape of the majority of institutions around us is square. They fit very well in boxes. Boxes or categories are everywhere you go, stacked on top of one another. They're religious, government, corporate, bank, academe, painting, writing, fashion design. It's the box people who run our lives. Being in a box is what people call normal. But somehow we all know it's unhealthy.

For years cultural institutions had a very hard time trying to categorize artists for awarding. Is he a writer? Then why is he composing librettos? He should fall under "music." And he did a rock opera. He must be "theater." Can even paint! So is he a visual artist? That's strange because I never met a single artist who could do only one thing.

And yet fusion has been around for so long. There's fusion of eastern and western cooking, of rock and opera, of performance and art. There's mixed media art, creative nonfiction, ecumenical mass, gender-bender clothes.

Why does everything still have to fit the seven boxes of classical art, when maybe all one has to do is ask—is he in artist? And if so, is he a good one? Ah, but that means breaking down all those ironclad boxes!

How we love the comfort zone of old forms! Look at what has been showing in Araneta Coliseum—Andy Williams, the Four Aces, Barry Manilow, Paul Anka, the Lettermen—all repackaged as "revival" or "retro." And for crying out loud—"Gulong ng Palad"—the sob story of the '60s, is back, too! As if there had never been anything newer! Ah, but new is risky. New is a zone of discomfort.

In the meantime, highbrow formal theater was having trouble breathing and staying alive. Every other Jack was jumping out of the box to put up his own starving thing. These were the living, breathing, evolving pockets of art, snubbed by the very institutions that should be supporting them.

In music, explains my friend, Manny Chaves, there was Club Dredd where the Eraserheads and Parokya ni Edgar began. Then Mayrics on España, with Maegan Aguilar and Cookie Chua, then the popular 70s Bistro, venue of Noel Cabangon and Joey Ayala. And now—SaGuijo in Makati where three to five live bands a week fight to be heard. In Intramuros there was the Sanctum which, with the Republic of Malate, began the "Spoken Word" and its "open mike." It was followed by Conspiracy on Visayas Avenue, with its 99 owners, and Rock Drilon's lively Magnet on Katipunan.

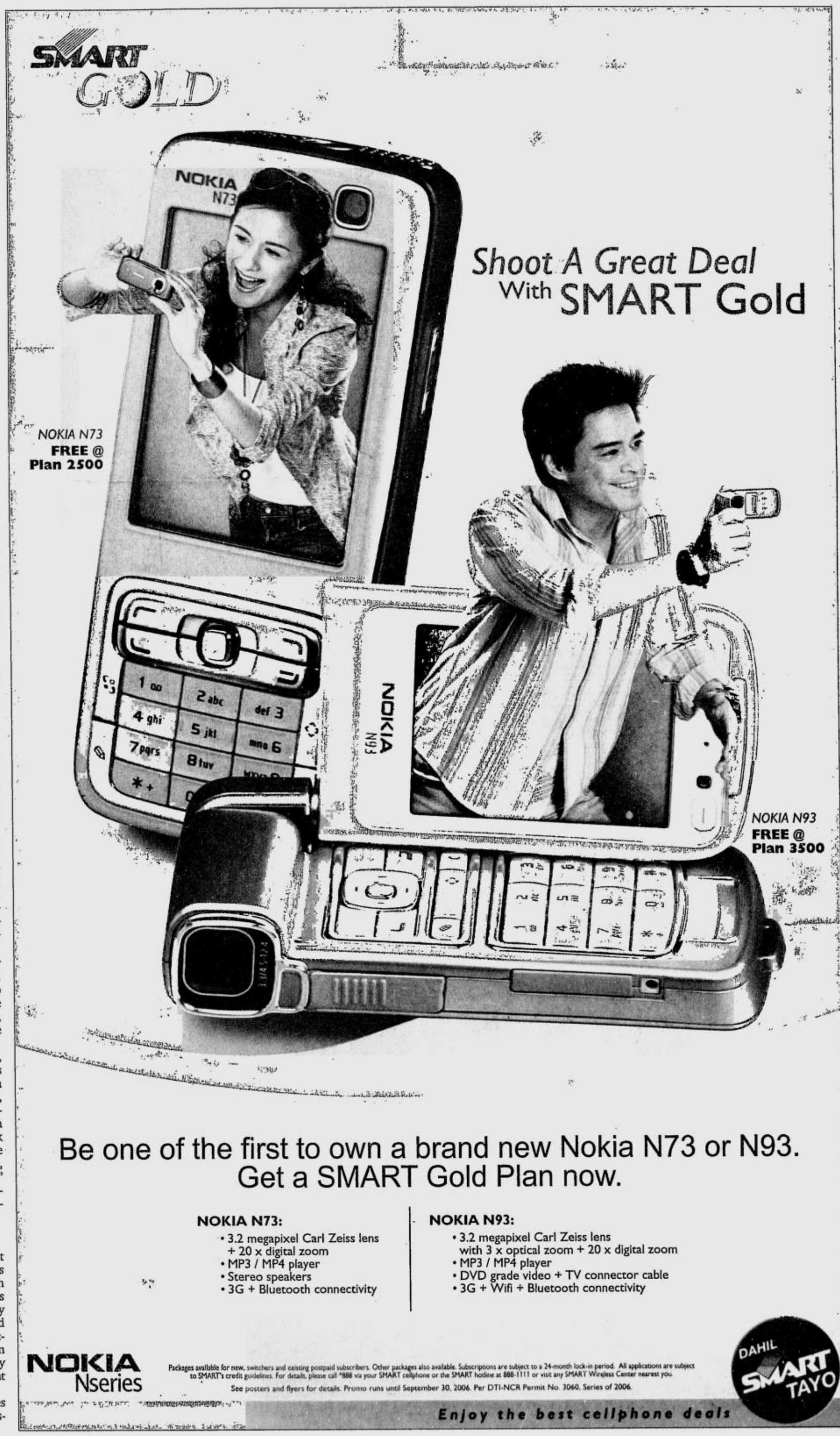
Serious art

Oh, but the canons had long been set—what was popular art, also known as *pang-masa*, was not to be considered serious art. This very much reminds me of Dr. Doreen Fernandez's columns on food, which were looked down upon by academe because they appeared in dailies and not in literary journals or read in scholarly lectures (which no one attended). But Doreen stuck to her *pancit luglog* and *pochero*. Today food is internationally considered an important aspect of a country's culture.

Eventually, too, the rock bands, indie movies and the comics were accepted by our powers-that-be of culture. But not before the artists had struggled so hard to make their name! How easy to join the bandwagon! And the movie stars of the *bakya* crowd? FPJ made it to National Artist for being a political figure. Dolphy and Nora Aunor before him never had the ghost of a chance!

In literature there were great magazines like Ermita, Jose, Pen-and-Ink and Goodman that died raging against the night. Now it's Story Magazine gasping for sponsorship. Memorable stage pieces like Bienvenido Lumbera's "Tales of the Manuvu," "Rama Hari" and "Bayani" were hits in the '70s. But how could they be memorable to people who had missed them or were too young to see them? That's because we have no boxes where filing boxes ought to be! There is no adequate and readily accessible documentation, in print or in video, of the works of major artists nor are these given importance.

'DE KAHON'/ C3



GOOD friends Cecille Lilles and Mike Toledo

MOTHER and son RJ and Fortune Ledesma

PEPE Diokno and Gino de la Paz

EVA Abesamis and Frannie Jacinto

NOKIA country general manager Parikshit Bhasin, Metro's Melanie Cuevas, Nokia corporate communication manager Luanne Erni and ABS-CBN Publishing's Ernie Lopez

Defying age and gravity

From page C4

haute jewelry of precious stones and diamonds. What a combination: a magical alchemy of gems and stones in a refined interplay of volumes, delicate forms, net and lace effects, all mimicking the graceful embroidery of the La Perla pieces.

My husband purposely missed this affair because the launch was a lethal combination of everything my little heart desired. The exclusive guest list was invited to view the excellent pieces and try them on, and Shangri-La Makati's Red had the perfect ambience for such luxury.

With Christmas just around the corner (well, the "ber" months have started, at least), it's time to visit Vanafi stores at Podium, Glorietta 1, and, starting this month, at SM Mall of Asia and Shangri-La Plaza.

Tip to the ladies: A bit of exercise, a La Perla ensemble, a Vanafi sparkler, some mood lighting with candles... and your hubbies won't even dream of watching a video!

Film on phones

What he may think of is making a video! It's all too easy now, what with video phones like the new Nokia N93. Part of Nokia's new N series range, the N93 is like a multimedia computer, breaking ground with innovations in mobile video, imaging and "techno-premium" design. In short, the phone is not just for connectivity but for... well, imagination!

Nokia recently invited several of the best film and commercial directors in the country to explore the potential of the N93, and then showcased their themed video outputs in a chic exhibit held at the Ayala Museum. Varied themes, from marriage proposals through coffee, road trips with friends to bonding with a dog, were captured with this astounding 3.2-megapixel camera-phone. There is even a video-recording device to document the moment.

BIG Nokia sign and me

THE NOKIA N93 directors

HIP FRIENDS Janine and Teddy Dario, Maureen Santiago, and Joey Server

RUSTANS' Rhoda Campos, Joy Wassmer and Gigi Mabanta

ASPAC'S Miguel Ramos, Nokia head of marketing Sandeep Khanna, and BBDO's David Guerrero

Among the groundbreaking artists who took part in this visual feast were award-winning directors **Manolo Abaya**, **Mark Meily**, **Khavn de la Cruz**, **Raul Ona**, **Pepe Diokno**, **Mark Querubin** and **Raul Jorolan**. Their creative works are still up for viewing at the Greenbelt 3 Cinema Lobby until Sept. 10.

This phone has so many features, like 3x Optical Zoom and 20x digital zoom, that allow the cinematographer to get closer to the action, and the DVD-grade video quality makes everything a wonderful viewing experience. But one has to read the manual, of course!

The Nokia show was directed by **Ariel Lozada** and hosted by **Christine Jacob**. The Ayala Museum was decked out in tones of gray, black and white, and had specially built viewing rooms that showed the full-length Nokia N93 short films of the seven directors. Guests leisurely watched the short films, nibbling on the gourmet delights of restaurateur **Margarita Fores** and enjoying a performance by **Skarlet**.

Nokia Country GM **Parikshit Bhasin** is now moving to Singapore. We will surely miss him in all the Nokia parties, as he has elevated the Nokia brand to the very top of the telecommunications game. Thank goodness we can always send each other short videos via our mobile phones.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

Mall opens 2 provincial branches

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT Store (RDS) has opened branches in Gapan City, Nueva Ecija, and the second level of Limketkai Mall, Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro City.

RDS Gapan branch's ribbon-cutting was attended by RDS general manager Graham Coates, Elizabeth Gokongwei, Springtime Creations Corp. general manager Julian Tecson, GMA Kapuso artists and Starstruck idols Rainier Castillo and Jackie Rice, Mario d'Boro marketing operations manager Cris Garcia, Sabella general manager Ramon Sabella, and Abenson Group of Companies general manager Winston Lim.

Also present were representatives of Indra Garments, Jag, Lee, Obra ni Juan, Wrangler, Freego, Chancellor 9000, Comtrade 9000, Adidas, Bench, Walker, Jockey, Hanes, Nitelites by Indra, British-Knight Luggage, Barbie Shoes and Rusty Lopez.

Until Sept. 14, shoppers will get a free gift from RDS Gapan for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P500.

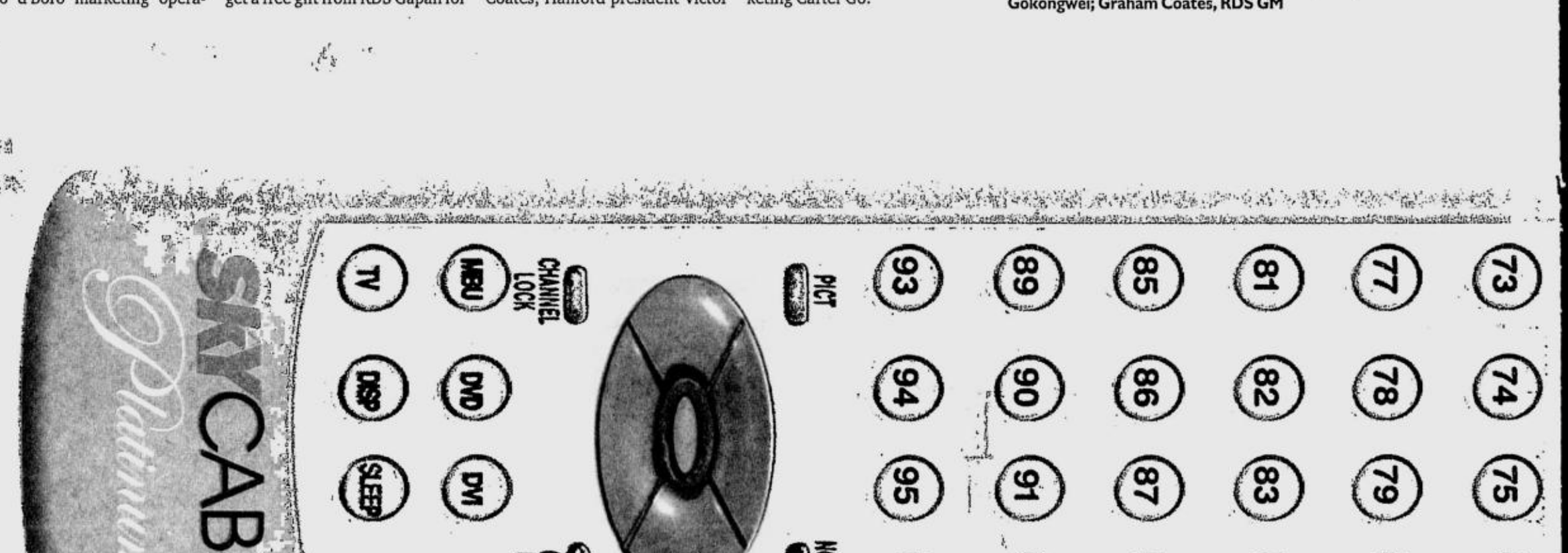
Ongoing until Sept. 8 is a weekly promo where shoppers with a P300 minimum worth of purchase will get an entry to the weekly raffle. To be given away is a scooter.

The RDS Cagayan de Oro opening featured a local marching band, a motorcade led by Starstruck idol Castillo and a mini program.

The ribbon-cutting was led by Coates; Hanford president Victor Te; Burlington general manager Ruddy Tan; Springtime's Tecson; Jag & Lee general manager Dale Roberts; Candy general manager Dina Siy; Castillo; and Limketkai Mall chief operating officer Albino Limketkai.

Also present were Limketkai Mall finance manager Henry Jumawid and manager Ria Alavar Ledesma; Ever Bilena chair Dioceldo Sy; JAG VP-sales Dondi Manlulo; Lee VP-sales Carlo del Rosario; and Crissa VP for marketing Carter Go.

JULIAN Tecson, Springtime Creations Corp. GM; Elizabeth Gokongwei; Graham Coates, RDS GM



'De kahon'

From page C1

In the '70s I remember trying to access from LVN and Sampaguita Studios something as banal as their movie stills.

"Ay wala na ho 'yan," what passed for the librarian said. *"Kaibigan ho ni direk hiniram, 'di na nakabalik. 'Yung iba na-*damage *ng* typhoon Dading."

Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

And yet, with the right stewarding, that is so easily remediable. In the visual arts, for instance, there is no complete file simply of all the art shows every year. In literature there is no file, simply of all the books by every publisher, campus or independent or professional, printed during the year—just title, author, date, and a brief description. In the visual arts with only a digital camera and a ball pen, it's so easy today to document every exhibit or gallery happening all year round. Yes, there are books and magazines but they cover only the shows of the bookstores and galleries they work for. In one art awards for young people, several fine works were overlooked simply because the judges didn't know they existed.

Recently I was sharing a pizza with two young friends, Mich Dulce, a fashion designer, and Cecile Zamora, a fashion columnist. Suddenly a whole family from the next table complete with grandkids descended upon Mich, asking for her autograph. Not because she was a talented prize-winning designer, but because they had seen her in "Pinoy Big Brother"!

Cecile and I were introduced and ignored. For the next 15 minutes I looked on in awe as they drooled over Mich's clothes, her hair, her makeup, her bling-blings. I had never been through such an experience of marginalization and it amused me no end.

Then a friend who visits Havana described to me its cultural scene. Support of the arts is in the constitution of Cuba. Its artists are national treasures and lionized just as much as its movie stars. Fans run after architects, painters, sculptors, writers, musicians, stage actors and directors for an autograph or to exchange a word or two. Not that I crave such attention, but it could help sell more books and tickets.

Class act

By the way, in the writing scene of the '60s and '70s, the Palanca Awards were a class act. Initially there were only a few categories—short fiction, one-act play, and poetry. People remembered the winners and it helped us get additional fruit for our labors.

Now the prestigious Palanca has been cut up into so many little categories—15 at last count, with first, second and third prizes for each category in English and Tagalog and some vernaculars. I always try to remember who the young winners are. But with 40 or so names to keep up with each year, I just gave up. Dare one suggest that the awards be cut down and the prizes raised to dazzling amounts? Surely complaints will arise. *Bakit elitista*? Why stop the multiplication of the loaves? Because an award is a distinction. It recognizes a major achievement and should be as elitist and exclusive as it can be!

Having so many categories, moreover, leads to a shortage of competent judges. And so writers become alternately contestants and judges which could very easily lead to horse trading. *Kayo ang nagsabi niyan, ha*?

Too many winners—not just in the Palanca but other contests as well—make winning ordinary. There are wholesale awards, too, where the whole town is with you on the stage. Not that I have not myself gone through a number of those. Once, in addition to the usual writer-publisher citation, a prestigious awarding body cited me as an "outstanding fashion designer." And I can't sew a stitch! I was relieved that there wasn't a couturier in the audience. I thought I'd just let it be, they'd realize their error in time. But then two months later the same awards with our pictures appeared in a newspaper! I brought it up to the awarding body. The official was surprised and promised to look into the matter. I am still an outstanding dress designer.

Another area where the-more-the-merrier seems to thrive is in the distribution of grants. The awarding body says, "There is only this much money to give away and there are so many of you applicants. So we are forced to spread it thin."

Now if a P1 million application for a performance or a film is awarded P400,000 and the proponent has no other source of funding, that is programming the project to fail. And so the theater and film landscape is littered with carcasses of failed grants. I think cutting a big thing up into little pieces whether it is a grant or an award is an invitation to mediocrity.

Who, by the way, checks the outcome of grants—the shows, the books, the researches, the conferences? Who assesses what succeeded and what failed? Who looks for new grantees? Who checks whether the funders are not also the grantees and the checkers, too? Who assesses which should be given more weight—a delegation to an important conference or the funding of a promising digital film?

What accounts for our small consumer market for the arts that it cannot make any cultural project survive for long? Even the best performances in CCP, the best art exhibits and the best books? Because the arts have never been considered necessary or important!

In New York everyone knows which new book is out, which play is showing (on Broadway, off Broadway) which exhibit, which musical. People talk about them because the papers seriously cover art happenings. Cultural events are as much a part of their lives as a hotdog. And so people are eager to pay for a ticket or a book they read about.

Who to blame?

It's media after all, that shapes our tastes. The acceptance of any creative work very much depends on what is said about it. But an inordinate importance is given by media to society goings-on, fashion and especially beauty, that is why so many people covet a botox, a belly tuck or a pair of Havaianas more than a book. A real review of a cultural event is a rare treat. And you'll never find a short story.

So, who is to blame? The readers? The editors? The publishers? The government? But the government can't even generate jobs for starving people! This is when I get a real nostalgia for Imelda Marcos. She had an artistic vision for the Filipino. She could spot budding talent. She gave scholarships to Cecile Licad, Rowena Arrieta, Coke Bolipata, Raul Sunico and other gifted kids. She established the Cultural Center, the Film Center, the National Artist Awards, the OPM Awards, the Bagong Anyo showcase for Filipino couture, the Makiling High School for the Arts, the Central Bank antiques collection. She was the embodiment of the Filipino *terno*, and you never caught her, even at 6 a.m., looking anything but radiant in it. But, of course, it all came with the hole in the sky and needed an entire dictatorship to support it!

Some say it was just her coterie that fed Imelda ideas. But then, she knew whom to co-opt and they were the cream of the crop—Leandro Locsin, Lucrezia Kasilag; Jaime Laya, Kerima Polotan, Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, Johnny Gatbonton, Yen Makabenta, Adrian Cristobal, Virgilio Almario. I mention this because I never saw such enthusiasm for culture in the two women presidents of the next dispensations. In fact, in a rare appearance, one actually left before Act II of a ballet. No attempt, please, to get Mrs. Marcos back into the limelight, just giving credit where it's past due.

> Being in a box is what people call normal. But somehow we all know it's unhealthy

I think the Filipino artist is a hero. He gives so much for so little. He can never collect royalties for his plays or musical compositions, otherwise Freddie Aguilar would be a millionaire now. Poverty is the artist's lot unless he finds means of support other than his art and a wife to hold up half the sky. The government hardly remembers him except when he can be politically used. Big business does not ask him to be an endorser of whiskey, slimming tea or underwear.

But he will passionately craft his piece with no other thought than to give it to the world. At what sacrifice! For next he will abjectly beg and borrow or sell some material possession to send his unrecognized creation abroad to compete. Where it will reap award after award—for filmmaker, actor, singer, painter, writer, musician, dancer. *Ang galing ng Pilipino!*

The artist is aware of the boxes and boxes that surround him and that the only way to be free of them is to blaze a trail for the bastions of culture to follow. Thus he becomes invulnerable. Because creation is the only divine act of which man is capable and the artist is most like his Maker when he is pouring his soul into his craft.

The article is the author's keynote speech during the 32nd Unyon ng Manunulat ng Pilipinas (Umpil) Writers' Congress.

The author's "The Last Full Moon," UP Press, will go into second printing. You might also like her new children's book, Anvil Publishing's "Bad Kings," at Fully Booked, Power-Books Greenbelt 4, Megamall and Alabang; National Book Store Shangri-La, Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 1 and Alabang, Metropolitan Museum, and Datelines in Cubao.

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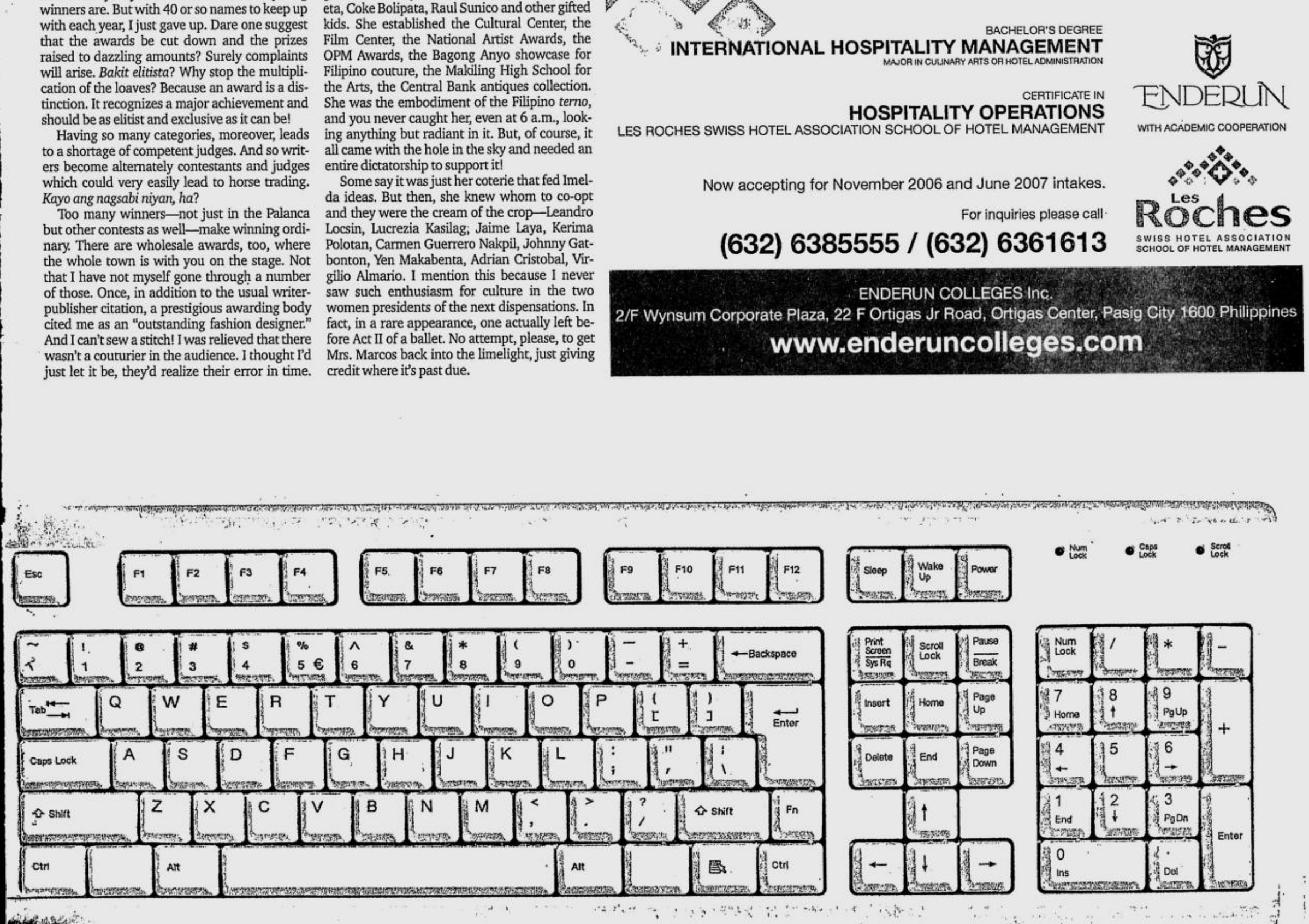

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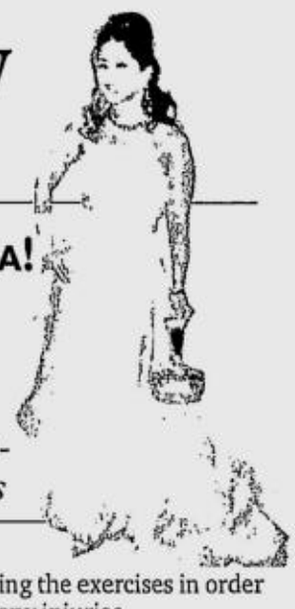
STEFAN Hafner principal Roberta Mazzocchi and Vanafi owner Vanessa Figueroa

MOMMY Ruby Roa wearing Tangga necklace with daughters Giorgia Remulla and Timmy Roa

Thanks to Pilates, I have become more conscious of my posture, making me look several inches taller whenever I straighten my back

MODELS in La Perla lingerie with Stefan Hafner jewelry, and makeup by Lancome

Defying age and gravity



TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

IN MY PURSUIT OF the perfect figure, I seem to be trying all forms of physical activity, the latest being Pilates. My husband, **Dennis**, has been into Pilates ever since he broke his back in a helicopter accident last year. Fortunately, he didn't need spinal surgery, but instead used the core strengthening exercises of Pilates to help support his back.

Just last week, Roche Philippines marketing director **Joey Sy** used their latest Lunar Prodigy Advance machine to make a scan of Dennis' spine. This machine, the first of its kind in Asia, is particularly useful in diagnosing osteoporosis and other bone problems.

The machine, in combination with Roche's once-a-month wonder drug for osteoporosis, Bonviva, can help women prevent osteoporosis. After all, prevention is the best medicine. I am just glad that, although women my age are now entering the target market of Bonviva, so far I have been spared the debilitating effects of any bone problems.

So while my bone density is still adequate, I have been religiously taking Pilates with my instructor, **Jean Marie**. She has carefully planned my program based on my strengths and works on my weak areas, such as my stomach muscles. Having had four babies in 20 years, I guess things are pretty loose in my abs area.

Jean Marie's patience and her passion for teaching are clearly present whenever we have a session. Being a certified Pilates instructor, she emphasizes the importance of proper breathing and posture in and out of class. Thanks to her, I have become more conscious of my posture, making me look several inches taller whenever I straighten my back. She also explains the importance of proper alignment when doing the exercises in order to avoid any injuries.

Finding the right combination of exercises is my current passion. Twice a week, I do Bikram yoga with **Pye Trinidad** (Tel. 0917-8340659). Thanks to this very heated activity, I have lost so much weight. Unfortunately, I also seem to have lost my boobs, but I'm not sure if that is due to Bikram water loss or just having stopped breastfeeding.

On one of my visits to my expert hair and makeup stylist, **Victor Ortega** of Emphasis Salon, I found myself seated next to show biz beauty doctor **Vicky Belo**, who gave me some advice on what to do if and when I get brave enough for a "procedure." She explained that by removing fat from around one's back, the fat cells would migrate and find themselves around the breast area. Wow! I didn't think that was possible.

Fabulous lingerie

I move deeper into my 40s in just a few more days, so I have to consider new, gravity-defying ways of looking young. I attended the launch of La Perla lingerie last month and I surely wanted to be as sexy as the models, all so scantily clad in the most fabulous of nighttime couture.

That evening was no ordinary evening because, aside from the unveiling of this luxurious Italian intimate wear, Vanafi of jeweler **Vanessa Figueroa** also launched Stefan Hafner jewelry.

Each curvaceous model wore La Perla and was also adorned with breathtaking Stefan Hafner

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ITALIAN executive chef Marco Anzani (far left) cuts his birthday cake; the Alexander family, Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort & Spa GM Timothy Wright and Robert Oayda

Cebu's new 'watering' hole

THE SHANGRI-LA'S MACTAN ISLAND Resort and Spa threw a bash for more than 300 to inaugurate its new Italian restaurant. Called Acqua, as in water, it is located in the old Paparazzi space.

Guests started arriving at the appointed hour of 11 a.m. Picture-window glass panels gave scenic views of the aquamarine pool, swaying palms, and the ocean beyond. Imagine moonlight nights.

Welcoming all were GM **Tim Wright**, with lovely wife **Mona**; resident manager **Richard Simmons** and German wife **Eva**; ever smiling executive assistant manager for F&B **Stefan Kapek**; director for marketing and sales **Jopy Lopez**; and executive chef **Trevor Stevens**.

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

Solicitous as ever were communications director **Sharon Samarista**, her assistant manager **Lesley Ann Tan**, and communications exec **Samantha Lazarte**. Busy as the proverbial bee was **Vincent Tian**, F&B manager.

Acqua's executive chef, **Marco Anzani**, only appeared after the extensive buffet was laid out. Beside him was his bride of just a few months, **Kate Dychangco**.

Seafood galore

The mushroom soup was to die for, and so was the tomato cream. There was seafood galore—oysters, giant scallops, shrimps and prawns, crabs ... The antipasti buffet groaned with delights. Every imaginable species of lettuce was on it, with dressings to go.

From a basket came crusty bread dipped in olive oil, broken into morsels and topped with either anchovies or one of the cheeses arrayed. An oven outdoors dispensed pizzas, the four-cheese variety be the favorite. People piled their plates with dessert to enjoy with the strong Italian coffee.

Cebu City Mayor **Tommy Osmeña** and beauteous wife **Margot** were there, stopping by the table of **Teresin Mendezona**, **Pinky** and **Winglip Chang** for witty repartee. They were joined by slim-as-a-reed **Margie Lhuillier**.

A group of Manila media people loomed into view. Pretty **Lia Bernardo** had all eyes in her direction. She promised to be back in October, and at the Mactan Shangri-La, for an anniversary party of Metro Society mag. The latest issue was sold out in Cebu, said correspondent **Maricris Encarnacion**.

Music Theatre Australia provided Italian operatic arias for entertainment. Titled "Diva," the program featured sopranos **Tania de Jong** and **Dominique Oyston**, plus tenor **Jonathan Morton**, guest artist from Pot Pourri.

Sing-a-long

The audience sang the lyrics or hummed the tunes of familiar pieces, specially the "toast" song from "La Traviata."

Much applauded, too, were the Synchro Swans from Manila that performed an aquatic ballet in the pool.

The party was more than just having fun. It aimed to raise funds for charity through an auction of items that ranged from a box of prime wine from Bacchus, to frames done in rare Shagreen.

Five top of the line Jewelled bags were donated by **Joanna Lhuillier**, with her signature in them etched on a bar of sterling silver. **Beling Go Ching Hai** couldn't resist them and got two.

The Shangri-La Mactan put up a two-night stay at the posh Panoramic Suite, with half a day of luxuriating at the Chi Spa's Grand Villa, plus a festive dinner at Acqua. **Michael** and **Joanna Lhuillier** outbid everyone else.

By the time the opera stars started to war-

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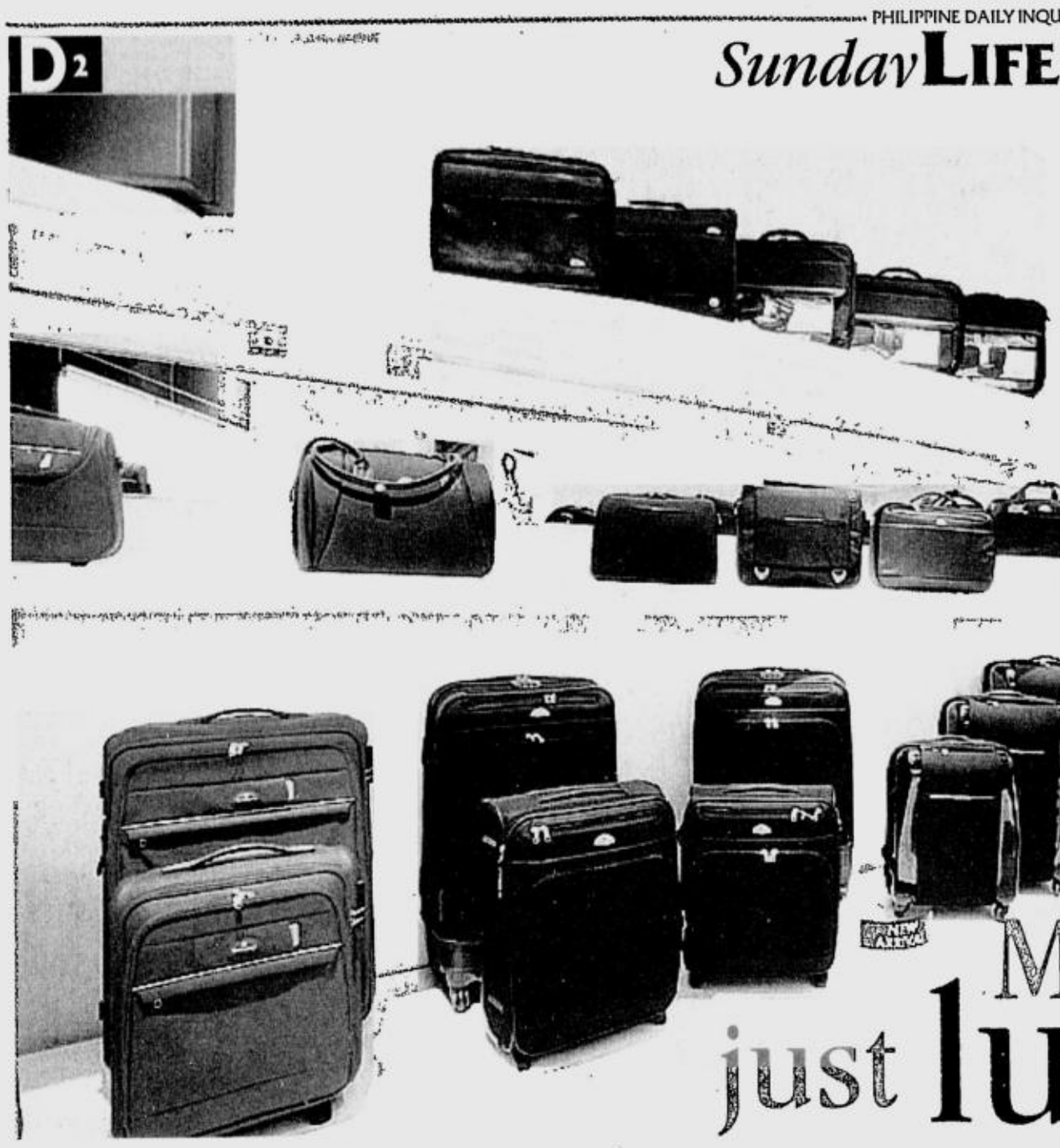

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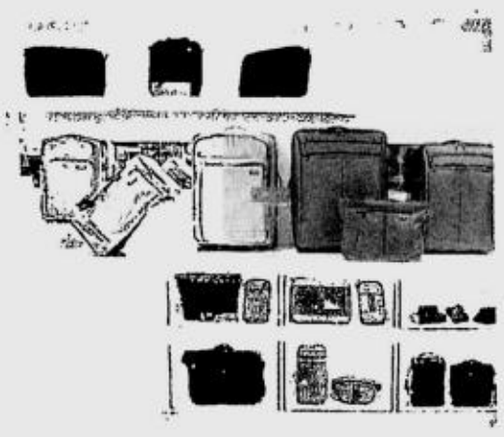
JIMMY Thai, president of Uniglobe Travelware Co. Inc.



A WIDE range of luggage and travel essentials/accessories make The Travel Club the first stop for travelers.

More than just luggage

By Pam Pastor

ALL KINDS OF TRAVEL BAGS—FROM large multicolored suitcases and smaller carry-ons to backpacks and laptop bags—line the shelves and even the floor space of The Travel Club. But Jimmy Thai, president of Uniglobe Travelware Co., and his wife Susan want people to see their store as more than just a luggage shop.

"The Travel Club has been evolving. We offer travel solutions—books, maps. We want people to go to us for their travel-related needs," said Jimmy at the The Travel Club's SM Mall of Asia branch, which opened recently.

Winter clothes are also available at The Travel Club. The Columbia brand has jackets that can keep people warm without being too bulky. The shop also offers travel accessories like money belts, pillow, luggage tags, luggage belts, security locks and more.

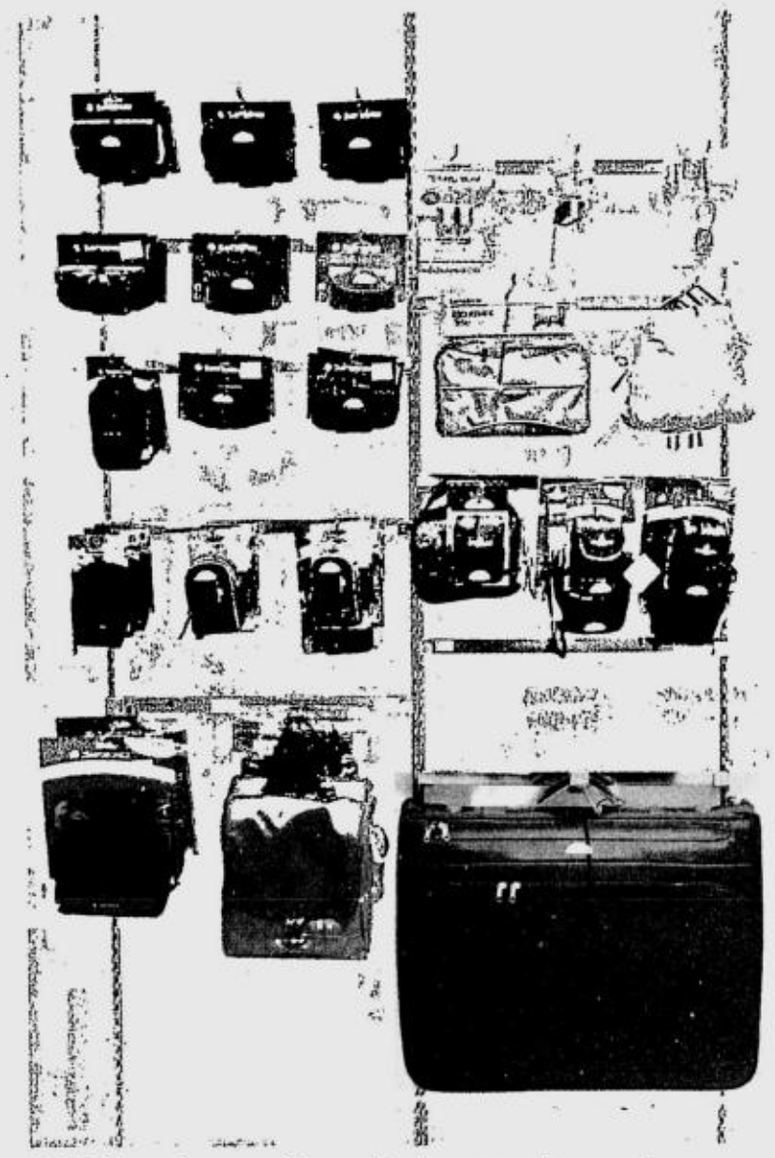
"We also offer travel information. We get news from airlines about flight schedules and new luggage regulations and we provide our customers with information. We are also updated on facts, figures and other details that will make their travel easier," said Susan.

Soon, travelers will also be able to book trips at their favorite The Travel Club store, thanks to the e-ticketing system it is now setting up.

Although the store concept has been growing, the people behind The Travel Club haven't been neglecting what it was originally known for—as the ultimate bags and luggage boutique.

Since it first opened in SM Megamall 14 years ago, The Travel Club has offered a wide range of bags that provide travelers with great quality and value for money. Twenty-three branches later, the range is even wider, with new lines coming in from different parts of the world to satisfy the luggage and bag needs of Filipinos.

NOT JUST a luggage shop, store also offers travel apparel that will complete your overall fashionable look.



MATCH your luggage with equally elegant travel accessories.

Travelers can find well-known brands inside The Travel Club, including Samsonite, Victorinox, Ace, Progres, Carlton, Hedgren, American Tourister, World Traveller, Superga, North Face, Jansport and more.

Candy colors

The Travel Club team watches travel trends closely to keep the store on top of things. Because a big trend nowadays is bright-colored luggage (a practical idea, really, to make spotting your bag on airport conveyor belts easier), the Travel Club carries a number of durable candy-colored bags.

Four-wheel bags are not just hot but also convenient, because their wheels that can turn in any angle make for easy maneuvering. The Travel Club's newest pieces already have this feature. Bags are also getting smaller and smaller, with more people—like Jimmy and Susan—becoming advocates of packing light.

Another big industry trend is budget travel, thanks to the birth of budget airlines. The Travel Club has followed suit by providing pocket-friendly bags for the thrifty traveler.

The store also provides value-added services for people who are buying bags. First-time travelers can seek advice from in-house travel specialists who can guide them in choosing the perfect luggage that would fit their needs.

"We ask them what their travel objective is—if it's business or leisure, where they are planning to go and how many days they'll spend there. Then we help them choose the right bag," said Susan.

Two brands—American Tourister and World Traveller—offer special prices for overseas Filipino workers.

"Because we want them to travel with dignity," explained Susan.

The Travel Club's relationship with its customers does not end after the purchase of a bag. It also offers luggage repair services. And it keeps things exciting with special promotions, like its campaign for local tourism and tie-ups with the Department of Tourism and different airlines so travelers can enjoy extra-benefits.

"We share the travelers' desire for perfect travels. The Travel Club is here to help them make their travels an affordable, convenient, comfortable and pleasurable experience," said Jimmy.

The Travel Club has stores in Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Manila, SM Batangas, SM Marilao, SM Dasmariñas, SM Pampanga, SM Baguio, SM Clark, SM Cebu, SM Iloilo, SM Davao, SM Cagayan de Oro, Gateway Mall, Shanrgi-La Plaza Mall, Market! Market!, Greenhills Shopping Center, Festival Mall and Robinsons Place Bacolod.

THE TRAVEL Club is considered the premier destination for travelers with its complete line of luggage, travel accessories and value-added services.

Cebu's new 'watering' hole

From page D1

ble "Time to Say Goodbye," it was only then everyone realized it was 3 p.m., time set for the end of the affair.

But how could anyone tear himself/herself away from the wondrous event? Besides, the champagne kept flowing, as did the excellent Proseco premium white wine from Italy. **Mikel** and **Claudine Ugarte**, with their brood, stayed on until 7 p.m. And they were not the last to go.

Another recent memorable event at the Mactan Shangri-La was a Tea Appreciation Luncheon. Six different kinds of tea from as many exotic parts of China accompanied an equal number of dishes from the Chinese restaurant, aptly named Tea of Spring.

Chinese tea master **Chao Zong Wan** ruled supreme, wielding a meter-long spout to brew the leaves in a crystal teapot. Tea for the appetizer platter was "West Lake Ming Chin Longjin," described as rich in Vitamin C.

"Perfect Harmony" to cool the body was served with the pumpkin broth, while the saint of all teas, "Taiwan Dongding Oolong," came with the lemon fish fillet and squid. Good for cleaning and fighting bad cholesterol, we were told.

With the beef tenderloin and king prawns came "Old Pe-ur," fermented for eight to 10 years. Sharon said it could really wash out even the worst cholesterol. So everyone eagerly sipped it.

We were just about ready for "Heavenly Robe," jasmine flowers, that Sharon said was good for circulation and digestion. It came with a bowl of fried rice that concluded the meal.

But there was more—dessert of glutinous rice and ice cream. Of the tea, "Everlasting Memories," Master Chao said it "has beauty benefits, eradicates pimples, alleviates ulcers, and increases vitality," specially for men. Get it?

In the Shangi-La Mactan calendar is a Singaporean food fest until Aug. 27; the inaugural of a ballroom with a capacity for 800 in November; and the Asean Summit in December. All official delegates will staying there, including His Majesty, the Sultan of Brunei, we surmise.

NESTOR Alonso, Joe Recio, Chinggay and Joe Utzurrum, Sharon Samarista, Flor Ynclino and Cookie Newman

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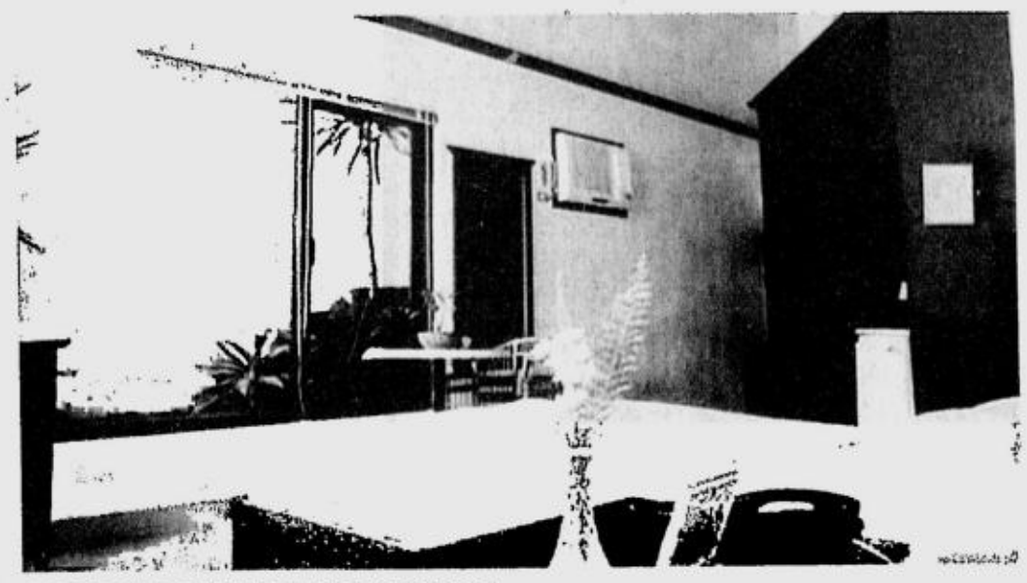

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Travel mart set Sept. 8-10

The Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) 2006, hosted by the Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa), will be held Sept. 8-10 at the SM Megatrade Halls 1-3 in Mandaluyong City.

This year's theme is "7,107 Islands—All-in-One Philippines." Highlights include the "Bituin ng Kasuotang Pilipino," a cultural show featuring Filipino costumes, and "Sale ng Bayan" that offers discounted travel packages.

Major sponsors include the Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority and Bank of Philippine Islands. Co-presentors for medical tourism include the Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Quezon City local government.

Boracay off-season package

Inscribe Tours offers the Boracay Getaway Tour Sept. 21-24.

Accommodations for the 3-night, 4-day tour will be at the Boracay Tropics Resort Hotel, rated AAA by the Department of Tourism. Guests will enjoy the resort's themed evenings for dinner, poolside massage, and a range of activities like island-hopping and visit to a butterfly sanctuary.

The Getaway package includes round-trip flight via Asian Spirit and airport-hotel transfers. Call Inscribe Tours at 8405912 and 5758370.

Family special

The Mabuhay Manor offers the Family Weekend Special. An overnight stay in a Deluxe Room for a family of four, two adults and two children aged below 7, is available for P2,299. The Family Weekend Special includes a complimentary buffet breakfast for two, complimentary use of the swimming pool, free three-hour use of the Business Center, welcome drinks and complimentary airport pickup.

The Mabuhay Manor is at FB Harrison cor. Ortigas Streets, Pasay City. Call 7022700-04, fax 6389255-56: E-mail reservations@legendhotels.com.ph or visit www.mabuhaymanor.-com.ph.

2.18 M HK visitors in July

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) announced that July arrivals in Hong Kong totaled more than 2.18 million, 5.7 percent higher than arrivals in the same month in 2005. This brings the January-July total to more than 14.38 million, a 10.3-percent increase from last year's.

Majority of tourists, 54.8 percent, were from mainland China.

They were followed by tourists from Taiwan; South and Southeast Asia; North Asia; Europe, Africa and the Middle East; the Americas; and Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific.

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REVITALIFT WHITE
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* Clinical test on 40 women. Self evaluation after 2 months.
** CLEO Thailand on 103 women
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WHITENING "SPOT AND WRINKLE" CORRECTOR
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TUGO-LENON

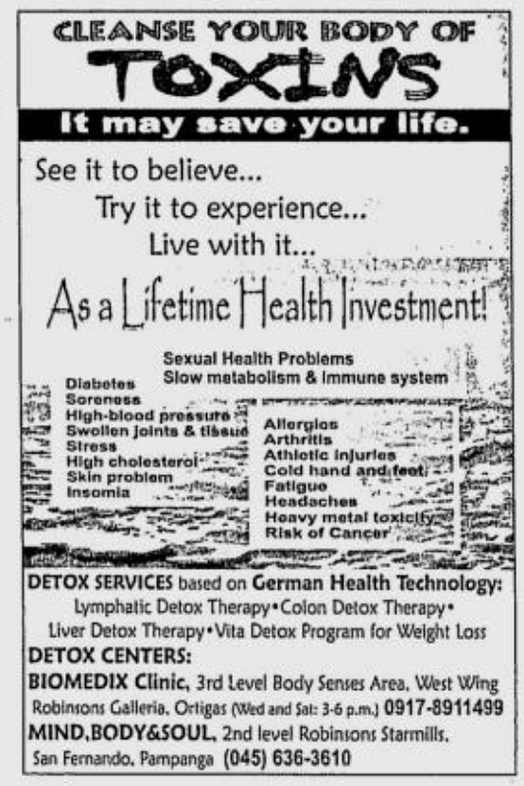
Joseph Reynaldo Tugo, son of the late **Anatalio Tugo** and **Aida Reynaldo-Tugo**, will wed **Joan Bagtas Lenon**, daughter of **August** and **Erlinda Lenon**, on Sept. 7, at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life located at Central Business Park, Reclamation Area, Pasay City. Reception will follow at Ibarra's Garden, Ermita, Manila.

ANTE-CORTEZ

Paulinius Ong Ante, son of **Mariano** and **Lelecita Ong Ante**, will wed **Concessa Cortez**, daughter of **Ephraem** and **Virginia Cortez**, on Sept. 16, at the National Shrine of St. Michael and the Archangels, Manila. Reception will follow at the Hotel Philippine Plaza. The bride will wear a piña empire cut gown created by **Tina Basa-Reyes**.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



ACOSTA-MASBAD

Ryan Joe Acosta, son of **Mr. and Ms Jose Acosta**, and **Radharani Masbad**, daughter of **Mr. and Ms Roberto Masbad**, wed recently in a Christian ceremony. Reception was held at Ibarra's Garden, Manila.

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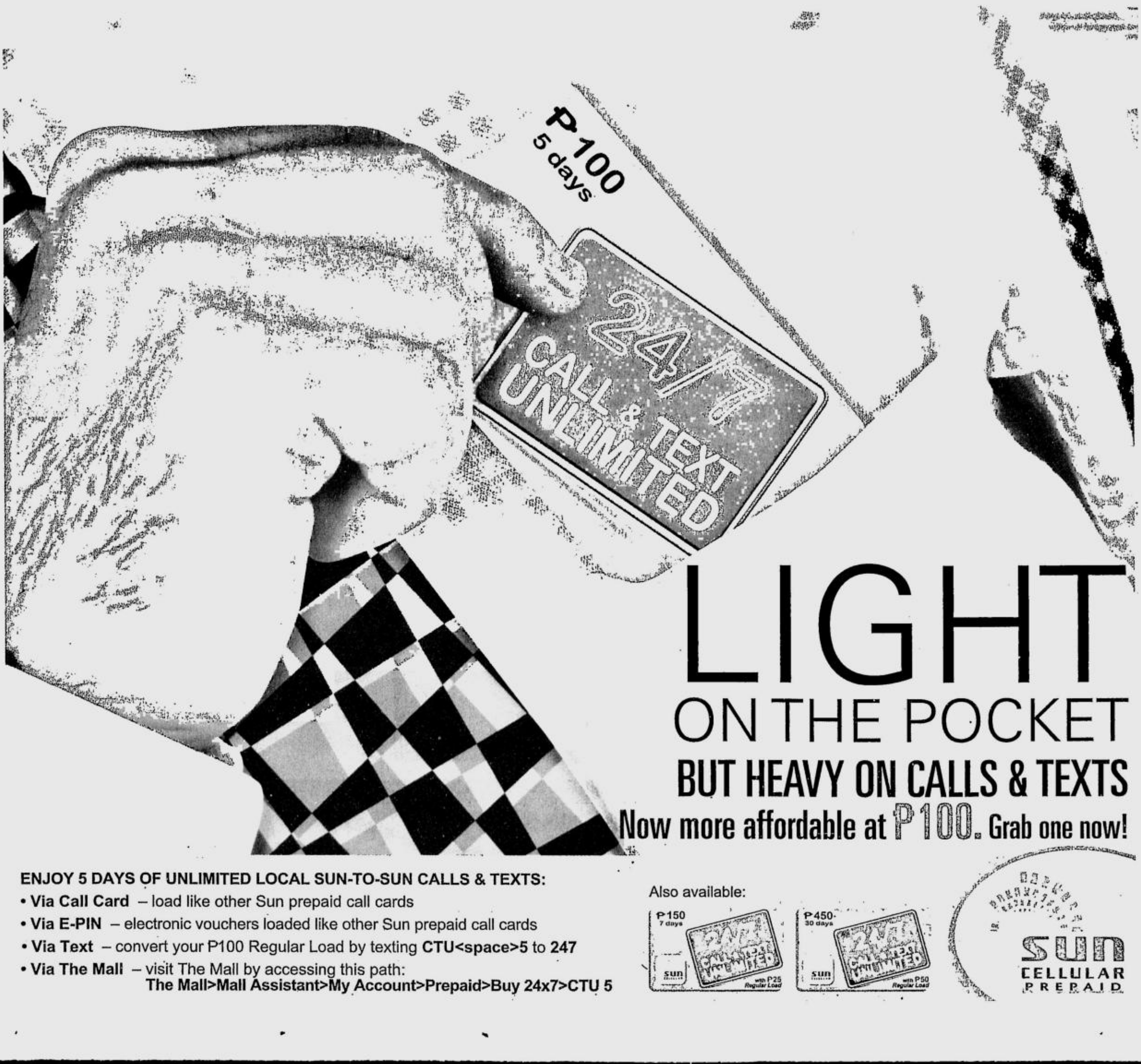
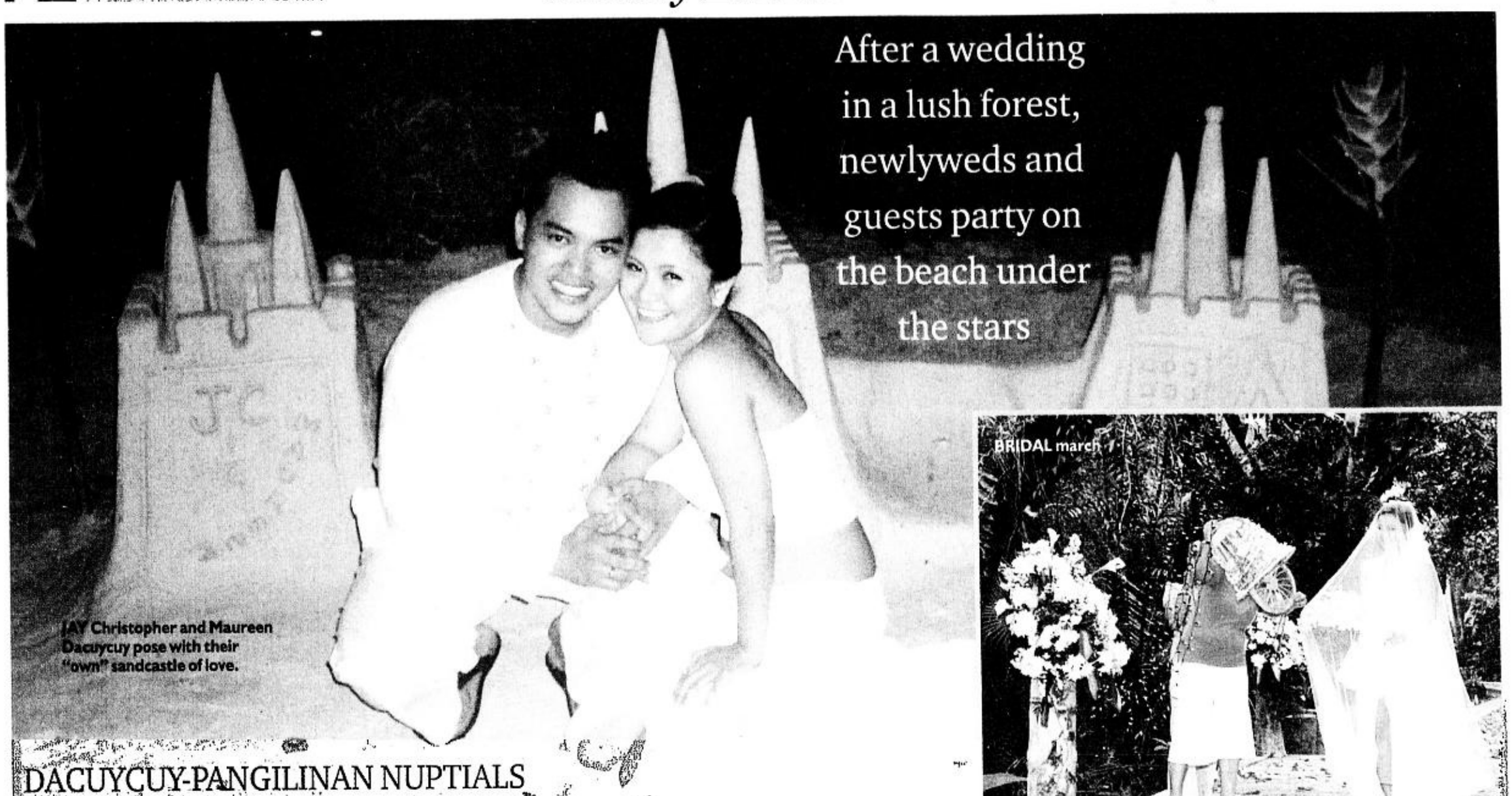




After a wedding in a lush forest, newlyweds and guests party on the beach under the stars

JAY Christopher and Maureen Dacuycuy pose with their "own" sandcastle of love.

DACUYCUY-PANGILINAN NUPTIALS

Bride marches to groom's music

THE RECEPTION: beachfront of The Pearl of the Pacific Resort Boracay

By Maurice Arcache

THE GOOD-LOOKING GROOM, **Jaycee P. Dacuycuy**, events organizer for Saks Manila, sang "How Did You Know?" as he stood at the altar waiting for his beautiful bride.

Maureen Pangilinan, a senior supervisor of the mobile phone division of Panasonic Phils. and daughter of **Pete** and **Tess Pangilinan**, had tears in her eyes and a shy smile as she walked down the aisle toward her groom. She carried a spray of white orchids, the long veil of her gown designed by her pal **Paul Mateo** of The Wedding Day, trailing behind her, *palanggas*.

The wedding in a lush forest, with a seaside luau reception superbly organized by the groom's dad, veteran publicist **Pete L. Dacuycuy**, was held in my "home" in Boracay, the popular Pearl of the Pacific Resort, during a gorgeous full moon.

Jaycee's mother, **Ching Tongol D.**, a former movie assistant director who now resides in San Francisco, California, was unable to attend but was constantly in touch with the couple via cell phone, *natch*.

One-hundred-eighty invitees flew in from Manille. There were 15 principal sponsors: Palawan Gov. **Joel Reyes** and wife **Fem**; Palawan Second District Rep. **Baham Mitra** and **Melanie Alvarez**, wife of Palawan First District Rep. **Antonio Alvarez**; **Charo Santos**, who was unable to attend; Taytay, Palawan Mayor **Roberto Rodriguez**; **Araceli Sarabia** of Boracay Tropics; Republic of Latvia honorary consul **Robert Lim Joseph**; **Doris Almeda**; **Reynaldo Rodriguez** of Asian Spirit; **Susie S. Roxas**; mega businessman **Bonito Singson**; **Suzanne King**; **Charlie Uy** of Patio Pacific Resort; **Connie Helgen** of Coconut Beach Hotel Resort; banker **Rodolfo Datoc**; **Ma. Cielito V. Lejano**; **Alex Valenzona** of Club Noah Isabelle Island Resort; **Lucy Pangilinan** of Sharp Phils.; **Jose Roberto Cocjin** of Seawinds Resort; **Zeny Domingo**; Southern gentleman **Greg Sanson**, main man of Pearl of the Pacific; **Evangeline Henares**; **Nikos Gitsis** of Seair (represented by hotshot **Patrick Tan**); pretty **Cheese Ledesma** of Nami Private Villa Resort; engineer Ferdinand Gonzales of Omnicon Phils.; **Carmen Poblador** of Philippine Airlines; Dr. **Dante Mendoza**; **Mhely Schmitt** of Dennis Uniform, USA; **Efren Cayetano**; and **Sol Gonzales**.

Secondary sponsors included movie/television personalities **Iza Calzado**, **Sunshine Dizon**, **Danica Sotto**, **Bianca King**, **Cogie Domingo** and **Patrick Garcia**.

They and the guests walked about 300 meters to get to the 8-ha forest through a narrow path, passing pocket gardens with sunlight streaming through tall trees as birds chirped.

The wall-less, eye-catching Shrine of Mary, Queen of All Nations, was beautifully designed by architect **Bobby Mañoza**.

The path was curtained with hundreds of tiny lights. A hundred butterflies were set free at the chapel's entrance. Invitees sat on tree-stump chairs during the ceremony with Rev. Fr. **Boyd Sulpico**, O.P., officiating.

For something different, the loving couple's 8-month-old son, **Jay Christopher Alsonso**, served as ring bearer.

The bride's sister, **Marjorie Ann Pangilinan**, was maid of honor, while good-looking **Barry Samson**, Jaycee D's best pal, was best man.

The reception under the stars included cocktails and a sumptuous dinner buffet. Guests held sparklers as the couple entered, passing the three giant sandcastles. *Apres*, toasts were offered by the couple's parents and guests, who were stylishly cool in luau attires and sandals.

It was a memorable, unusually romantic wedding, *palanggas*, with guests flying in from Palawan, Ilocos Sur and Mindanao, and dancing till the roosters crowed, dahlings.

MARY Mother and Queen of All Nations Shrine in the 8-ha forest of the Pearl of the Pacific Resort in Boracay

PEEJAY Dacuycuy, Rodney Datoc, Bryan Tongol, Iza Calzado, Pete Dacuycuy, the couple, Rey Ocampo, Suzanne King, Danica Sotto, Sunshine Dizon, Vito Syquia and Bianca King

MEGA businessman Bonito Singson, Sharon Camesa, Rodolfo Datoc; the couple, Chitoboy Chavez, Seair's hot Patrick Tan, Gov. Joel Reyes with wife Fem Reyes

EBOT Castillo, Fr. Boyd Sulpico, the couple, Peejay Dacuycuy, Mark Pineda and best man Barry Samson

WITH JAMIEN Yu and Ito Tuason of Club Noah

FLOWER girls Marguerite Clarice Pangilinan, Sean Kyle Pangilinan, Angeleica Dacuycuy and Alexandra Ponciano entering from the forest, into the chapel

ALBY and Maricar Xerez Burgos, the couple, Albert Villareal and Jenny Villamiel

BRIDE'S family: Coleen Pangilinan, Miguel Pangilinan, Mike Pangilinan, Marjorie Pangilinan, Alfonso Dacuycuy, the couple, Tess Pangilinan, Pete Pangilinan, Lucy Pangilinan, Marguerite Clarice Pangilinan, Sean Kyle Pangilinan and Miguel Carlos Pangilinan

GROOM'S family: Peejay Dacuycuy, Benjie Datoc, Chita Datoc, Ernie Dacuycuy, the couple, Rodolfo Datoc, Pete Dacuycuy, Rodney Datoc and Mitzi Gay Datoc

She needs a crash course in English

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

My husband and I, with our two kids, have been living abroad these past five years. It was his job that brought us here. Now that both our children are going to school, my husband has allowed me to go back to work.

I was lucky to find a good-paying temporary job in a government corporation. Once this project I am involved in is completed, my employment will be terminated as well. But I'd like to continue working in this company.

Since I work as a secretary, I was advised that my chances would be better if I improved my English writing and speaking skills.

What's the quickest way to achieve this goal? We're coming home for a vacation and shall be staying for a month. Is there a course I can enroll in during this period that will result in a big improvement?

WIFE ABROAD

You cannot improve your language skills in a month's time. There are no shortcuts to it. It is not like swallowing a pill to cure your headache... or undergoing a few hours of cosmetic surgery to enlarge your breasts or remove an eye bag.

It needs a lot of patience to understand the rules of a language. You need to memorize verbs, pronouns, etc. and understand their usage.... develop keen ears to absorb the nuances of a language... and have to be quick-witted to be able to use the right words at the right time.

Have a dictionary handy. This will enable you to enhance your vocabulary and look up words you cannot understand. Don't be afraid to ask what a word means and never feel humiliated when you are corrected.

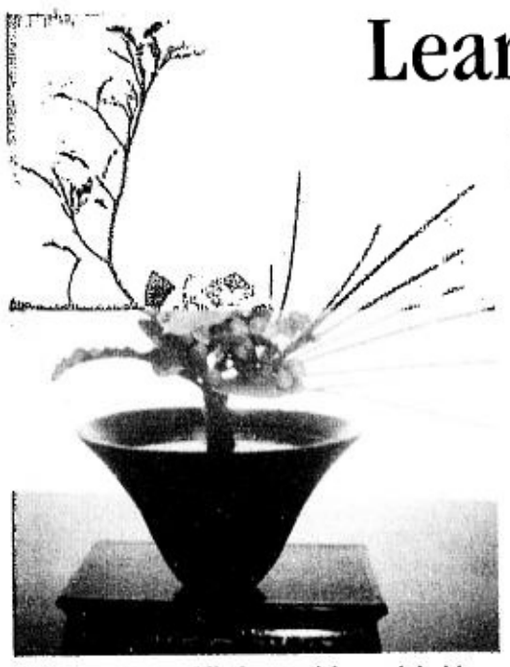
Have a clear idea of what you want to write or say. And keep your sentences short. You'll be understood better and will have more impact if you refrain from using big words and kilometric sentences.

Hone your skills by listening to newscasts, watching movies and reading aloud newspapers, magazines and books. Believe it or not, this is a sure way of making the language stick to your mind.

It's never too late to start anything. Just be prepared to do the hard work.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

Learn Ikebana and other flower arrangements



RIKKA shimputai Ikebana with pandakaki branches, calathea leaves, casissa grandiflora berries, and bullrush

IKEBANA PROFESSOR SERAPION S. Metilla is conducting a seminar-workshop on Ikebana and other forms of flower arrangement Sept. 20-24, 1-6 p.m., at Metts Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Learn how to make flower arrangements for all occasions, whether as a hobby or business.

Day 1—Ikebana with hands-on on Moribana and Shoka

Day 2—Western style with hands-on on all-around or one-sided and L-shape

Day 3—Western style with hands-on on crescent shape and Hogarth line, and discussion on flower shop operation

Day 4—Free style, buffet or party centerpieces; and garland-making

Day 5—Corsage, bridal bouquet and other wedding pieces

All materials for the hands-on will be provided such as pruning scissors, flower vases, floral foams, wires, floral tapes, flowers, foliage and ribbons. Participants get handouts and certificates.

Interested parties should register at least three days in advance for the preparation of materials. For more details, contact 9394593, 4352479 or 0917-8321352.

October fair is all about wedding basics

THE BRIDAL FAIR "WEDDING Basics 2006" will be held Oct. 29 at Le Pavilion, Metropolitan Avenue, Pasay City.

The event is organized by Grooms Bestman Events' Management, Kasal.com, Sunlife Financial, Boracay Tropics, Celestial Rings and Suriya Spa.

Wedding Basics will showcase a wide selection of goods and services from top suppliers. It will also introduce the latest trends and provide information and tips to help people plan their weddings.

A fashion show will present the works of new and established designers, the latest in shoes and accessories, musicians and special effects.

Couples who will book services during the fair have a chance to win prizes like a one-year insurance from Sunlife; Suriya Spa harmony massage treatment; three-day, two-night stay at Boracay Tropics; or top-of-the-line wedding ring from Celestial Rings. Door and hourly raffle prizes will also be given away.

Call 5645887, 5590057, 0916-4658011 and 0921-3432665, or visit www.grooms-bestman.com or www.-kasal.com.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — TOPPER

ACROSS

1 Batman and Robin, e.g.
4 Will- — wisp
8 Basketball, informally
13 Make certain
19 Edible snail
21 Blacksmith's block
22 Replacement car
23 Start of a riddle
26 Before, to bards
27 Brush aside
28 Mustard alternative
29 She clucks
30 Brits' potato chips
33 — uproar
35 Mozart's "— kleine Nachtmusik"
37 Kilmer of "Real Genius"
40 Riddle, part 2
45 Boise loc.
46 Bullring bravo
47 Second bk. of the Bible
48 Certain Greek
49 Actor Joe or Vincent
51 "The — Kid" ('50s TV series)
54 "Jurassic Park" co-star Laura
55 Riddle, part 3
61 Singer Brickell
62 Unemotional types
63 Israeli airline
64 Matured
66 Prefix with millionaire
67 Riddle, part 4
70 Spring month
75 Take — (react to applause)
77 Roof border
78 Melodic, in music
79 Hurl
83 Riddle, part 5
87 "— way to go!"
88 Edison rival Nikola
89 Scurry
90 Joanie's boyfriend
92 "So what — is new?"
95 Go wrong
96 Gray shade
99 End of the riddle
105 Kind
106 "... so long — both shall live?"
107 Lo-cal
108 Old suit fabrics
109 Cup handle
111 Uncommon
114 Outdoes
116 Pester for payment
117 Riddle's answer
124 Gets accustomed (to)
125 — salts
126 Bewailed
127 "Scarface" Al
128 "Lorna —"
129 Extend over
130 Do sums

DOWN

1 Morning moisture
2 Led to a seat
3 Simple wind instrument
4 Agatha Christie's "N —?"
5 — Friday's (restaurant)
6 Very greedy people
7 Racial
8 Makeshift seat in a barn
9 Lennon's Yoko
10 Egg cell
11 1/6 inch type
12 "Buffy the Vampire —"
13 Everything
14 "That's how the rumor was told to me"
15 Surfeit
16 Like party crashers
17 Ump relative
18 Slice of history
20 "This is only —"
24 Bluefin, e.g.
25 Cut of beef
30 Early third-century date
31 Drug that treats male-pattern baldness
32 Pre-entree servings
34 Vote down
36 Actress Kidman
38 Old arcade giant
39 Mrs. Cheney
41 Olin of "Alias"
42 Converging points
43 Of lyric poetry
44 Surrender formally
49 Spades, say
50 Pugilistic combos
52 Check endorsers
53 Haul
55 Doctrine ending
56 Good name for a cook?
57 Pine- — (disinfectant brand)
58 Suffix with pay
59 Chubby
60 Armada
65 Battle-scarred one
67 "— it" ("Amen")
68 — -jongg (tile game)
69 With 104-Down, "Our Miss Brooks" star
71 Actor Brad
72 Use an oar
73 "The Lady — Tramp"
74 Myrna of movies
76 Hand-dyed fabrics
78 Ancient markets
79 Desert flora
80 Playwright Fugard
81 Piled high
82 Tortilla snack
84 "—'s Gold" (1997 film)
85 Chronicle
86 Rapper turned actor
91 Make raspy
93 NBC comedy show, briefly
94 Ideal example
96 Capital of Maine
97 Having an aroma
98 "For — a jolly ..."
100 Greek sandwich
101 Used a sickle
102 Tiny energy source
103 Flower components
104 See 69-Down
110 Prefix with space
112 Bank takeback
113 Old U.S. gas brand
115 Ginger cookie
117 Recording aid, briefly
118 Put — show
119 Mao — -tung
120 Truckload
121 "— big girl now"
122 Swampland
123 Not even

answer on page E4

Cardinal Rosales to say Mass for New York Pinoys

GAUDENCIO CARDINAL ROSales will say Mass on Sept. 24, 2 p.m., at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on the invitation of the city's Cardinal Edward Egan. Filipino devotees of San Lorenzo Ruiz are expected to attend.

Fr. Erno Diaz, coordinator of the Filipino apostolate and director of the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz in Little Italy, is spearheading the celebration. He has formed an executive committee composed of Consul General Cecilia Rebong; Jose Ramos and Jose Lim, trustees of the Philippine Pastoral Center; Gavino Abaya, manager of the Philippine Center Management Board and former classmate of Cardinal Rosales; Arthur Acosta, president of San Jose, Batangas Association and provincemate of the cardinal.

The annual Mass for Filipinos at St. Patrick's coincides with the feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz. The late Cardinal John O'Connor personally chose San Lorenzo's feast day. He said San

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Lorenzo Masses in 1985 and 1996.

The late Jaime Cardinal Sin said Mass in 1984. Cardinal Egan said the Mass last year.

Cardinal Rosales will bless and dedicate two markers in the afternoon of Sept. 23 in the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz at 378 Broome Street. The first marker will be engraved with the date of the chapel's inauguration and the name of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who graced the inauguration in 2005. The other marker will be engraved with the names of donors.

Padre Pio experience

Dr. Paz "Pachot" Flores, author of "Widow Resurrected," told me an amazing story about

The annual Mass for Filipinos at St. Patrick's Cathedral coincides with the feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz

St. Padre Pio that happened in 1984 when her husband, Dr. Rodolfo Flores, was at the Cardinal Santos Hospital because of a stroke.

Francis Reyes Llamado, son of Maring Reyes Llamado (a good friend), was in the other room. Taking pity on him, Tita Pachot put the *estampita* of Padre Pio against the wall and prayed for the boy.

Much later, Francis told his mother and Tita Pachot that he saw Padre Pio inside his room. Francis could hardly speak because of the stroke. But when Tita Pachot showed him the picture of Padre Pio, he said "yes."

RET. Commodore Jose Francisco with Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga of the Philippine Navy and his daughters Monina Bermejo and Linda Francisco

Francis lived for a long time afterward. He passed away several years ago.

New books

Dr. Flores is set to launch her two new books at the Makati Sports Club on Oct. 17. Bobby Caballero will emcee. "Pushing the Right Button to Happiness" and "Put Your Pants One Leg at a Time" are de-stressing books.

Sales of the books, printed by Mabini Publishing House, will go to help 350 wounded soldiers at the V. Luna Hospital and Rotary Club District 3810.

St. Padre Pio Church

The archdiocese of Nueva Caceres created a new parish dedicated to St. Padre Pio de Pietrelcina in 2003 in barrio Sabang, San Jose, Camarines Sur. Fr. Joaquin Ibay is parish priest.

This is the first parish in Bicol dedicated to Padre Pio. Father Ibay is now raising funds to build a bigger church. The parishioners, fishermen, cottage industry workers and small entrepreneurs cannot do it alone. Please write Fr. Joaquin Ibay using the address above or text 0927-7971508.

Pilgrimage

In thanksgiving for healing through the intercession of Padre Pio, Chito Bertol and friends are again going to San Giovanni Rotondo to visit the tomb of the saint.

When I was there in 2003, I inserted into the grills surrounding the tomb petition letters from friends. The petitions were answered. For details of the trip, text 0918-9083676 or call 5211651.

The healing Mass of Padre Pio will be held 6:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Manila Seedling Bank Prayer Hall, Quezon Avenue corner Edsa.

Foundation for sale

Olivia Altarejos is moving to the United States to join her husband. She is selling her foundation helping special children.

The Foundation for the Development of Early and Special Education Inc. organizes and conducts training programs for preschool children and those with special learning needs. Text 0917-8808797 or e-mail fdsei@yahoo.com.

Congratulations

The Manila Yacht Club honored recently Ret. Commodore Jose Francisco with a dinner on the occasion of his 97th birthday. A graduate (Class '31) of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, the commodore is the school's 14th oldest alumni, the eldest being 106-year-old Capt. David Byerly.

Francisco was Navy commander under four Filipino presidents. He became the first Filipino commander of the club in 1963-1965. Before him, the club was headed by Americans.

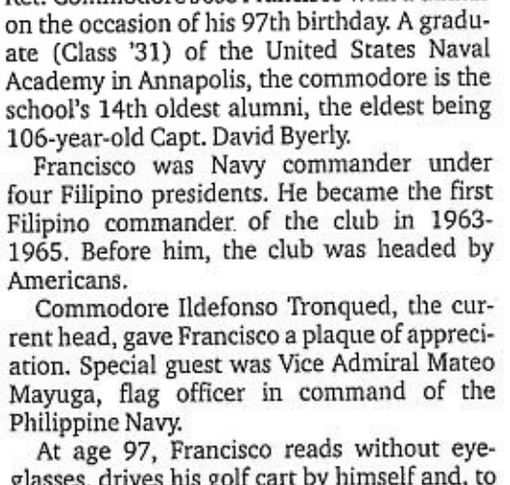
Commodore Ildefonso Tronqued, the current head, gave Francisco a plaque of appreciation. Special guest was Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy.

At age 97, Francisco reads without eyeglasses, drives his golf cart by himself and, to the horror of his children, goes around the village where he lives and to a restaurant to get his favorite dim sum.

Present during the dinner were his children Linda Francisco, Monina Bermejo, Rene Francisco and his wife Renee Vicente, grandchildren and their families.

Linda, who owns and runs the Piandré beauty salons, is gathering cut hair in the parlors to bring to Guimaras to absorb the oil slick. Those who want to help can text 0918-9249647.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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Concierge Hotline: 757-4853
Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
Sept. 9: 4:00pm – 5:30pm
Concierge Hotline: 842-2782, 772-1860
Ayala Center Cebu
Activity Center
Sept. 10: 3:00pm – 4:30pm
Concierge Hotline: (032) 231-5342 loc. 324, mobile # 09178902327
Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu
In association with: Rustan's
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquir

Heart is 'Idol' host, too

By Marinel R. Cruz

She handles a daily 15-minute update show. Ryan Agoncillo says she's a 'worthy addition' to the program

STARTING THIS WEEK, actress-TV host Heart Evangelista will host "Philippine Idol Exclusives," ABC 5's nightly bulletin on the reality talent search program, INQUIRER Entertainment learned on Friday.

Negotiations between ABC 5 and Heart's talent management company, Manila Genesis Entertainment, lasted a whole month, according to Perci Intalan, head of the network's Creative and Entertainment Production.

In April, ABC 5 announced its decision to get Ryan Agoncillo as main host of "Philippine Idol." The network had been looking for a "second host."

Demanding job

Intalan pointed out that Heart's job was bound to be very demanding. She will host the daily 15-minute show, conduct interviews and record spiels.

In a text message, Heart told INQUIRER: "It's going to be a great journey. As Idol hopefuls learn from this challenge, I will also learn with them."

"Philippine Idol Exclusives" airs at 8 p.m. on weekdays.

"Heart is a worthy addition to the 'Philippine Idol' family," said Ryan. "She is a competent actress and TV host/VJ. We all look forward to a lot of happy moments with her."

Screen test

Heart recently went through a screen test and met with the show's director, said Intalan. "A lot of other celebrities were considered for the job. We wanted someone of the same stature as Ryan."

When Heart gets on board, the title of the nightly bulletin will be changed to "I (heart) Philippine Idol." On occasion, the 15-minuter will be extended to up to 30 minutes, Intalan said.

"A lot of non-celebrity hosts, radio DJs and models auditioned before Heart. What made the difference was that we already knew she had hosting skills," Intalan pointed out. "That she's an 'American Idol' fan was a plus factor."

"Idol" performance and results nights are aired live Saturday and Sunday, respectively, on ABC 5 at 9 p.m.

SMS voting began last night.

Long queues expected today for 'Starstruck'

By Nini Valera

"STARSTRUCK," THE ORIGINAL HOME-grown *artista* search, launches its fourth season today on GMA 7's noontime variety shows "SOP" and "SOP Gigsters."

The shows will have satellite programs in Cebu, Iloilo and Davao, portions of which are expected to interrupt the airing of "SOP" and "SOP Gigsters" live from the GMA 7 main studios in Quezon City.

But the main action is expected outside the studios nationwide when application forms for auditions are distributed.

Remote telecasts

"We expect thousands to come to the studios and the other locations on Sunday," said Janine Nacar, "Starstruck" program manager.

Last year, about 15,000 people lined up for the application forms as early as 4 a.m. The number is expected to swell as the age requirement for candidates has been raised from 15-17 to 16-21.

Remote telecasts will be held in SM City Cebu entertainment plaza, SM Davao entertainment plaza and at the lower ground floor, entertainment plaza in SM City Iloilo.

Hosting the Cebu telecast are singers Karylle and April Aryana, with the talent search's season one runners-up Ranier Castillo and Yasmien Kurdi, season three's Ultimate Female Survivor Jackie Rice and finalists Bugz Daigo and Rea Nakpil.

In Davao, Rufa Mae Quinto and KC Montero frontline the show that also features finalists Iwa Moto, Janna Roxas, Kristine Reyes, Vivo Ouano, Vaness del Moral and CJ Muere.

Updates

Jay-R and Kyla are the main hosts in Iloilo, with Ultimate Survivors Mike Tan (season two) and Marky Cielo (season three) and finalists Christian Esteban, Jade Lopez, Mike Tan, Sarah Larson and Gian Carlos.

Hourly updates on the status of application form distributions and various "Starstruck" trivia will be aired all day today starting with "Love 2 Love" until "Mel and Joey." The updates will be hosted by Jolina Magdangal.

Face to face with Westlife at Big Dome

BRITISH BAND WESTLIFE PERFORMS TOmorrow, 8 p.m., at the Araneta Coliseum.

The show, dubbed "Westlife Face to Face in Manila," is the group's first trip back to the Philippines after nearly half a decade.

Among the group's hits are "World Of Our Own," "Bop Bop Baby" and "Unbreakable."

For ticket inquiries, call 911-5555.

Barbie & Kitchie

Barbie Almabis and Kitchie Nadal star in an exclusive concert for a lucky winner of Sunsilk Great Hair Days Promotion.

Says Barbie Almalbis, "I'm very excited to perform with Kitchie in our very first show together!"

Kitchie Nadal adds, "I look forward to being on stage with Barbie."

Explains Carlo Endaya, Unilever's marketing manager for Sunsilk:

BARBIE Almalbis

KITCHIE Nadal

"We have collaborated with Jolibee, Cinderella, Nafnaf, National Bookstore, YRYS, David's Salon, Netopia, Dunkin Donuts, Kamera World, Western Union, Odyssey, Toby's Sports, Super Ferry, Sari-Sari Store, Genevive Gozum, Marcela, Swatch, and RRJ! Every purchase of a Sunsilk sachet comes with a giveaway or discount from one of these brands.

"There is no grand raffle date to await. Prizes are offered instantly. Aside from those already mentioned, there is also a cash prize of P500,000, a brand new Honda Jazz, and— most uniquely special—the private concert of Kitchie and Barbie."

Today

Wally and Jose of "Eat Bulaga" at Metropolis Star; 4 p.m.

Tomorrow

Silk and Steel at Merk's Greenbelt 3

Tropical Depression at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 5

Dong Abay at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Acoustic Jive at Merk's Greenbelt 3

Brass Munkeys at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 6

RJ at Discovery Suites; 9 p.m. Call 899-3108

"Rock the Boundaries" The Oakley DRT Bar Tour with DRT and Wunjoat '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Richard Merk, Eddie Katindig and Judith Banal at Merk's Greenbelt 3

Side A at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 7

Brownman Revival at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Stella Ruiz and H2O at Merk's, Greenbelt 3

Orange and Lemons at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 8

RJ 'n Friends with Moonstrucks at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

The Jerks at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Route 70 at Merk's, Greenbelt 3

Fat Session at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 9

Backroom Musical Caravan goes to Nasugbu, Batangas with Erik Santos, Kim Flores, Frenchie Dy, K Brosas and The Boxers and Keanna Reeves.

Jackie Rice at Metropolis Star; 4 p.m.

Spy at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Flintstones and the Gang at Merk's, Greenbelt 3

Kearney St. at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 11

Parokya ni Edgar at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Silk and Steel at Merk's Greenbelt 3

Tropical Depression at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 12

Noel Cabangon at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

SHOW TIME

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OPENS ON S

US Release: September 2006

A Unitel Pictures/Unico Entertain

JR Valentin as "Victor" introducing Nathan Lopez as "M

Amor Oloquet Hai Balbuena

Christina Dy Clint Catalan Lily Esquillon

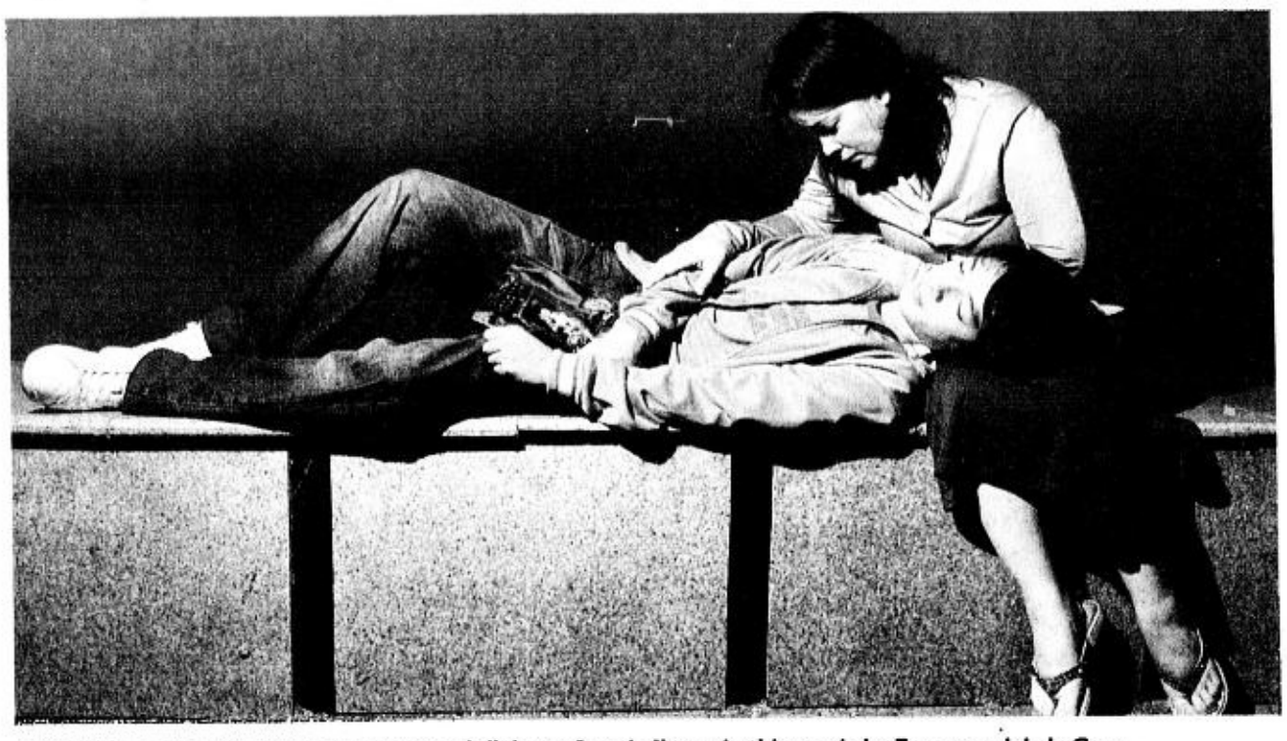
Emmanuel dela Cruz Ned Trespeces Jade Castro

A Cine

Potent performers in 'Sarong Banggi'

Strangers in the night come together in a sad tale of the city

By Lito B. Zulueta



JACLYN Jose sings the Bicolano dirge as a lullaby to Angelo Ilagan in this movie by Emmanuel de la Cruz.

IN "SARONG BANGGI," A BAND OF teenagers on a carefree escapade downtown books a hooker for their friend Nyoy (Angelo Ilagan) on the eve of his birthday. But when they find out she's not exactly the young flesh she has claimed to be in her SMS text messages, they drop the plan and spend the night elsewhere. But Nyoy in his wanderings easily gravitates back to the hooker's table, and it's only a matter of time before he and Jaclyn (Jaclyn Jose) find out that fate has in store for them something more than the casual encounter usually obtaining between strangers in the deep of night.

REVIEW

A finalist in the first Cinemalaya film festival last year, "Sarong Banggi," seems to have been easily eclipsed by the competition's most successful movie, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros." That is understandable, since "Maximo" is the more flamboyant of the two: it tells the story of a gay adolescent from a criminal family in the slums falling in love with an honest young cop.

But "Sarong Banggi," which will finally be shown commercially starting Sept. 6, has a charm of its own, including its rather ticklish take on a highly improbable love affair between a young man barely into puberty and an aging prostitute barely into menopause.

Story of awakening

It's a moving story of awakening—a youngster's initiation into manhood and an adult's sudden discovery of the dark consequences of a choice she made back when she was younger.

The viewer initiated into the magic of "Maximo Oliveros" (which will be shown in theaters again this month in a reformatted version) should really look at "Sarong Banggi" as a companion piece. Both depict the joys and heartaches of the young and the wages of adulthood and compromises. Both have lovable boy-characters whose innocence seems to be the blank tablet on which life's cruelties are painfully inscribed.

The Cinema Evaluation Board seems to believe that "Sarong Banggi" can hold out on its own as it has given the movie a B-rating, which means it will get a 65 percent rebate of its amusement tax.

Writer-director Emmanuel de la Cruz and his production team, led by writer-producer Raymond Lee (also the producer of "Maximo Oliveros"), have crafted a city-genre movie that, however, refers to the country's tortuous pastoral roots. What instantly connects the movie to the audience is the hook of the Bicolano folk dirge that is the movie's title. By insinuating the melody and lyrics of the song—which talks of a dream about a bird's sad song one late night—the movie achieves a resonance that is embodied in Jaclyn, who has come from Sorsogon hoping for a better life in the city. She becomes the bird in the song, always in search of a nest in a place of perennial transience.

The cinematography of Miguel Fabie and the production design of Lena Cobangbang make of the city—especially the garish stretch of the refurbished Roxas Blvd.—a kitschy, deceptive row of nestings. Into the bright lights of the big city enter Nyoy and his "barkada," eager for adventure and mindless of the human costs of thrill-seeking. In one corner, under a gaudy lamppost is a blind musician singing "Sarong Banggi" for alms.

The real picture

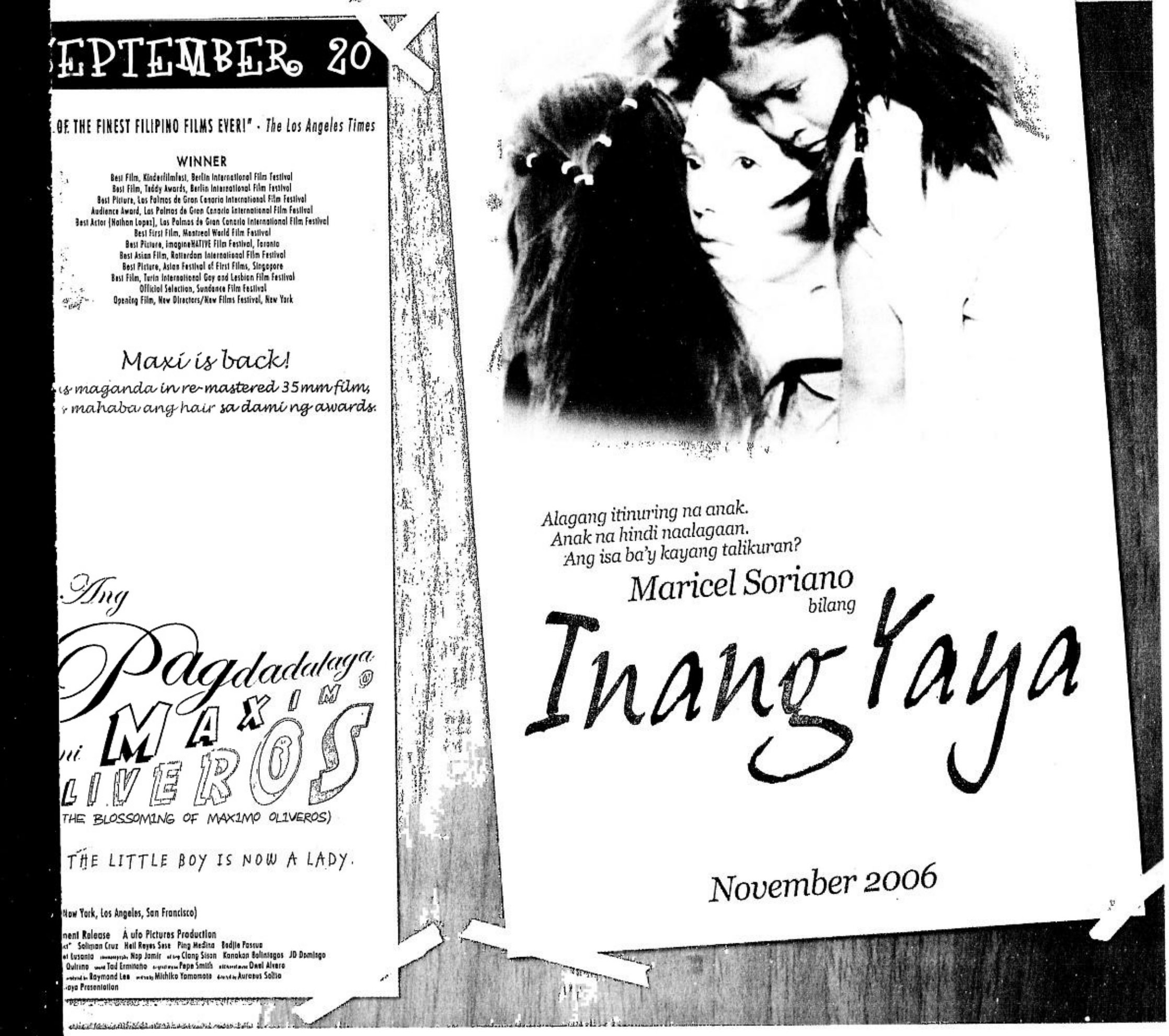
Jaclyn will sing the song to the naked Nyoy after their lovemaking. And she will later realize the import of singing the dirge as a lullaby to Nyoy fighting off sleep beside her, and she will see Nyoy for what he represents—not the carefree innocence of the young, but the revenge of the furies.

And we will realize soon enough the cosmic logic that connects the sightless to those who have eyes but do not see. "Sarong Banggi" has echoes of Sophocles.

Aside from its deep and striking meanings, "Sarong Banggi" works because of the beautiful performances. Angelo Ilagan looks like Bembol Roco, at least how Roco could have looked when he was younger and perhaps a tad fairer. (In fact, the afterglow scene looks pretty much like the famous motel scene between Roco and Hilda Koronel in "Maynila: Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag.") But since Ilagan is younger and more delicate-looking, there's more poignancy, and a little foreboding, in his looks and person. He capitalizes on these qualities to deliver a very touching performance.

Great actress

But the real pivot of the movie is Jaclyn Jose, who won the Gawad Urian as Best Actress this year for the role. Jose usually delivers competent performances, and it's the mark of her greatness as an actress that not only has her confidence increased with every movie; her sense of timing and build-up has also become impeccable. In "Sarong Banggi," the role calls for a steady welling up, and Jaclyn Jose does not disappoint. The audience will certainly share the shock and distress of her discovery.



New view of stardom

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR MANY DECADES, MOVIE stars ruled global entertainment, throwing their weight around, knowing that star value was one of the main attractions for moviegoers.

But even top stars' reign can't last forever. Before Hollywood stars felt the pinch and crunch, their Filipino counterparts had experienced a drastic loss of stellar glow and clout when local movies started experiencing tough times a decade ago.

With the decline in local movie production, many stars went jobless, and they had to do TV work to support their families.

Other luminaries drastically reduced their talent fees to make it easier for producers to hire them.

Action superstars felt the pinch the most. Before the slump, they were making millions per movie and enjoying other perks that made them feel really special.

Alas, their success went to their heads, and their behavior turned off producers. So, when the slump began, producers stopped bankrolling action films, and the fat-cat action superstars were put out to pasture.

Now, a few years later, the film industry is recovering from its long slump, but it's instructive to note that stars' fees remain low.

Well, it looks like it's Hollywood stars' turn to tighten their belts.

Second thoughts

With film production costs soaring every year, even big-bucks producers and studios are having second, even third thoughts about the superstar treatment that lead movie players should get.

This is because even hit movies end up earning only a little when their excessive production costs—including stars' inflated fees and additional perks—are subtracted from the grosses.

So, the emerging policy now seems to be to pay stars only on "value for money" terms, and to nix their excessive demands.

This new view surfaced recently, when young star **Lindsay Lohan** was rapped by her producers for missing some shooting schedules. Properly chastened, Lohan apologized and vowed to toe the line from now on.

Next came Paramount Pictures' decision not to renew its production deal with top movie moneymaker **Tom Cruise**, citing his negative off-screen behavior as a major turn-off.

Observers also note that the latest Paramount-Cruise production, "Mission, Impossible, III," while still a major blockbuster, earned less than the preceding movie in the lucrative film franchise, and thus opine that the prospect of continually diminishing returns could have been another key consideration in Cruise's rejection.

Finally, **Mel Gibson** is getting his own share of flak for recently, driving under the influence, and letting loose with anti-Jewish remarks.

This has affected not just his public image, but his financial bottom line as well, with a TV network pulling the plug on a projected series with Gibson on, ironically enough, the Holocaust.

It also isn't clear how Gibson's current woes will affect the box-office chances of his latest film, "Apocalyto." But, whatever the movie's outcome, Gibson's stellar travails, along with Lohan and Cruise's own dire moments of truth, should prompt other stars to work harder and make fewer demands from here on in.

'The Covenant'

Directed by **Renny Harlin**, "The Covenant" tells the story of four young students bound by their sacred ancestry: As descendants of the original families that settled in Ipswich colony in the 1600s, around the time of the Salem witch trials, the boys have all been born with their ancestors' supernatural powers.

When a fifth descendant suddenly moves to town, secrets begin to unravel which break the covenant of silence that has protected their families for hundreds of years.

ROUNDUP

CRISTINE Reyes

Ride with stars

"Star Circle Quest" winners Erich Gonzales and Arron Villaflor are the featured celebrities today in Star City's "Ride with the Stars" series. Cristine Reyes and Jake Cuenca are the guests on Sept. 10 and Sherwin Ordonez and Chyna Ortaleza, on Sept. 24.

For visitors, there will be photo ops, autograph signing and yes, rides with the stars from 4 p.m. onwards on Fridays and 1 p.m. onwards on Saturdays and Sundays.

Korean romantic-comedy

"Ms. Kim's Million Dollar Quest," GMA 7's newest Korean romantic-comedy series, debuts tomorrow, replacing "Ang Pagbabago."

The Koreanovela stars Ji Jin Hee ("Jewel in the Palace's" Captain Jung Ho Min) as leading man Gabby to Kim Hyun Joo.

Gabby, photographer to Annie Kim's wedding, becomes the bride-to-be's accidental savior when the groom Ryan (Park Gun Hyung), fails to show up.

'I Luv NY'

Viewers will be given a chance to fly to New York City, when GMA 7's romantic prime time soap, "I Luv NY," concludes this week.

The texting promo involves trivia questions that will be aired on each episode from Monday to Friday. Winners will be announced Sept. 10 on "SOP."

Love teams Jolina Magdangal and Marvin Agustin and Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras fly back to the Big Apple as the series draws to a close.

'Car Chases'

National Geographic's "Hollywood Science: Car Chases" explores pedal-to-the-metal cinematic car chases on Sept. 5 at 10 p.m. Leading filmmakers, including directors James Cameron and Jan de Bont, stunt experts and scientists reveal the science behind such scenes. The episode examines the basic physics behind car chases to reveal what's plausible or simply impossible.

'Compound' screening

"Compound," a critically-acclaimed film in the recently concluded Cinemalaya Festival, will be screened on Sept. 9, 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Cine Adarna, UP Film Center, Diliman, Quezon City.

Tickets at P100 are available at Ticketworld (www.ticketworld.com.ph) or UP Alyansa (09183929023).

Football films

The Goethe-Institut Manila holds the "Football Film Series" from Sept. 18-24.

Over 50 feature films, documentaries and shorts worldwide are part of "Das Runde im Eckigen (The Round in the Square)," an international football film package to celebrate football and the recently concluded 2006 Fifa World Cup in Germany.

The films will be screened at 7 p.m. on weekdays, with special afternoon screenings on the weekends at 5/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Admission is free.

Wanted: Singers

Backroom Inc. is looking for male and female singers, 18-25 years old, who would like to be part of a band.

Interested parties may submit their profile with pictures and a CD or demo tape to Room 207, CRM Bldg., 116 Kamias St., corner Kasing-Kasing, Quezon City.

For inquiries, call 435-1098.

'Elizabeth I'

HELEN Mirren

Helen Mirren plays the title role in "Elizabeth I," debuting on Sept. 24, 9 p.m. on the Hallmark Channel.

The historical spectacular earned 13 nominations and won five awards in the 58th Prime time Emmy's including Outstanding Casting and Art Direction and Outstanding Actress in a Miniseries or Movie for Mirren.

Elizabeth I's birth was possibly the greatest disappointment of her father, King Henry VIII, who had wanted a male heir to the throne. Yet she possessed remarkable abilities and achievements that made her one of England's most admired rulers.

Quiz Bee

Studio 23 and the National Quiz Bee Foundation recently signed a contract for the airing of the 27th edition of the longest-running academic competition in the country.

Present during the signing were: TV personality JC Cuadrado; Quiz Bee associate project director Auvena Lacsam; Quiz Bee vice president Pettizou P. Tayag; Studio 23 managing director Leo P. Katigbak; and Studio 23 director of on-air operations and sports Jojo Neri.

The show starts airing Oct. 27.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

...ext u... ...be) or 283 (Smart)

In Rome for 'Rome'

LOS ANGELES—WE WERE recently in Rome to visit the set and interview the stars of HBO's sexy, historical epic series "Rome."

But first, let us share some sidelights.

Madonna and husband, filmmaker **Guy Ritchie**, came to have candlelit dinner at the beautiful terrace restaurant of Hotel de Russie, the place where we're staying. The singer-actress was in town for her "Confessions" tour which we saw in LA and wrote about in this column. We went back to the hotel from a dinner just in time to see the couple leave.

Apparently, Hotel de Russie, which is close to Piazza del Popolo and the Spanish Steps, is a favorite of rock and roll's royalty. Performers from **Billy Joel** to **Bryan Adams** have been sighted there. We also saw lovely Italian actress **Monica Bellucci** (Mary Magdalene in **Mel Gibson**'s "The Passion of the Christ") dining at Le Jardin du Russie, a romantic spot, especially at night, when candles and towering trees complete the ambience. Ask Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie.

Festival village

The organizers of Rome's first international film festival, which may eventually rival the cachet of the established Venice Film Festival, showed us the main venue, Auditorium Parco della Musica. Renowned Italian architect Renzo Piano designed the auditorium which usually hosts classical music concerts and plays. But from Oct. 13 to 21, it will serve as the festival village.

This Rome trip excited us because we set foot on the legendary Cinecitta Studios for the first time.

Even as kids, we have been fascinated with Cinecitta. The name alone conjures scenes from big-budget classics made there such as "Ben Hur," "Cleopatra" and "La Dolce Vita." If those movies seem as ancient to you as Rome itself, here are a few of the relatively newer films that were also made at Cinecitta's five acres of back lot and six sound stages: "The Passion of the Christ," "Gangs of New York" and "Mission Impossible III."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Just the thought of the great directors who worked here—**Federico Fellini, Luchino Visconti, Vittorio De Sica** and **Martin Scorsese**, to name a few—made me smile and my heart beat faster as the van we rode in entered Cinecitta's famous gates.

Europe's largest

HBO, in partnership with BBC, has been filming the $100 million toga-and-sandals series within the walls of this studio, the largest in Europe. "Rome" may be set in the era of **Julius Caesar** (played by **Ciaran Hinds**) but it is anything but stuffy. There's plenty of sex, nudity, action, power struggles and drama involving historical figures aside from Caesar, such as **Mark Antony** (**James Purefoy**), **Cleopatra** (**Lindsey Marshal**), Atia of the Julii (**Polly Walker**), Servilia of the Junii (**Lindsay Duncan**) and Marcus Junius Brutus (**Tobias Menzies**).

In addition, two Roman soldiers, Lucius Vorenus (**Kevin McKidd**) and Titus Pullo (**Ray Stevenson**), who were mentioned in Caesar's real-life journals, are creatively drawn in this series to provide a point of view from which we can see the power struggles, battles, sex and intrigue (nothing much has changed, really).

The funny thing was, there we were in the Eternal City and yet we were visiting the ersatz version inside a movie studio, quite solemnly listening to the trivia and factoids recited by "Rome's" affable historical consultant, Jonathan Stamp. But we didn't mind, since Jonathan's prattle was often funny and irreverent, in contrast to the bland monologue of our tour guide when we visited the actual sites seven years earlier. Although this portly guide's habit of saying "Alora" (Italian for "and then" or "therefore") and pulling up his sagging pants at the same time had kept us amused as we tramped through the ruins.

Vestal virgin

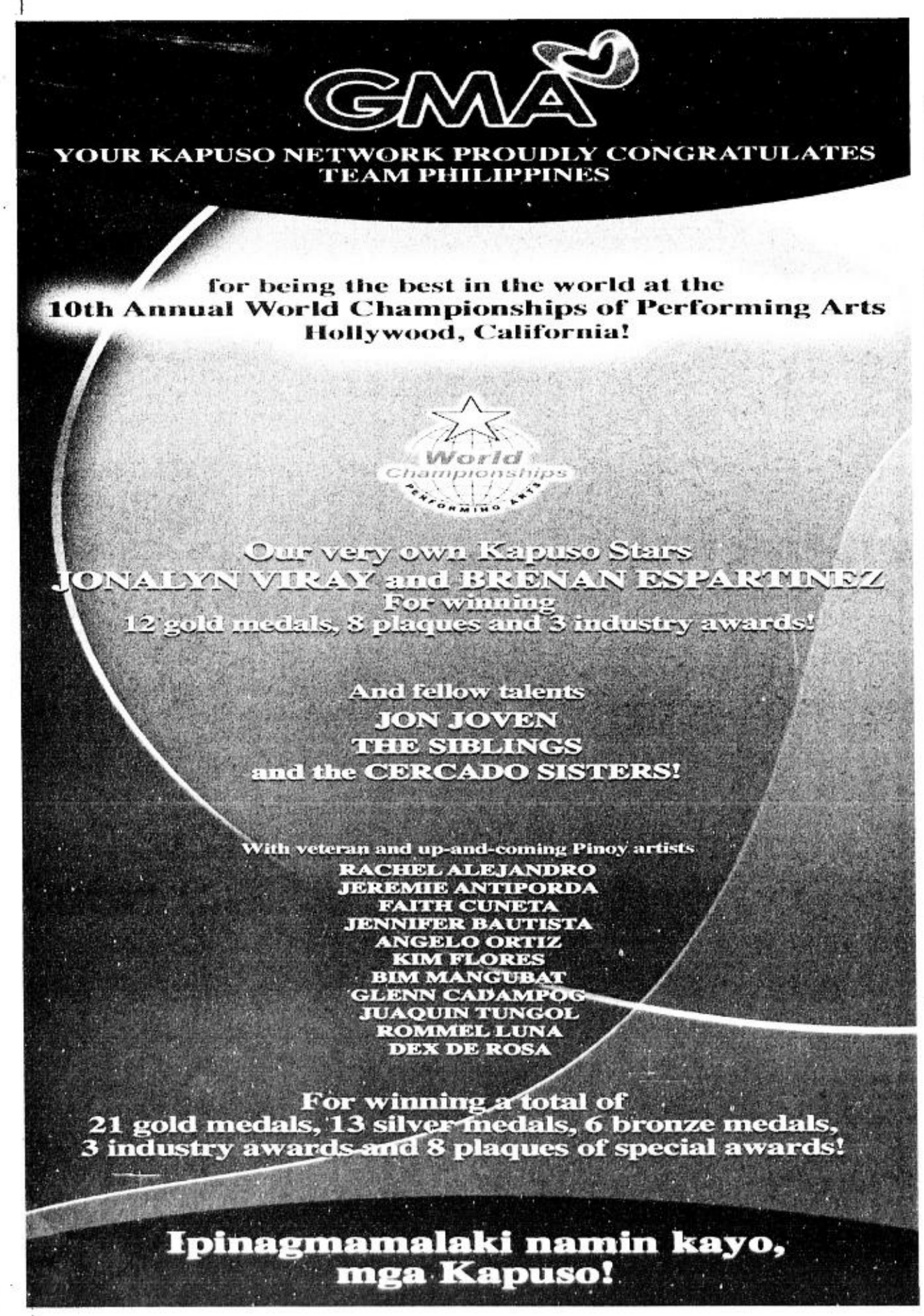
Our day-long visit to Cinecitta began on an open plaza at an impressively re-created ancient Roman Forum. Even the olive trees are over 200 years old. Jonathan emphasized that "Rome" shows a vibrant, colorful city as it must have been, not a staid, sterile place populated by white toga wearing denizens—the cliché served up in those old Hollywood movies. In the course of our tour of the sets, the Brit, with his encyclopedic knowledge of ancient Rome, presented a city with about a million residents, who scribbled graffiti and lived in slums or magnificent homes.

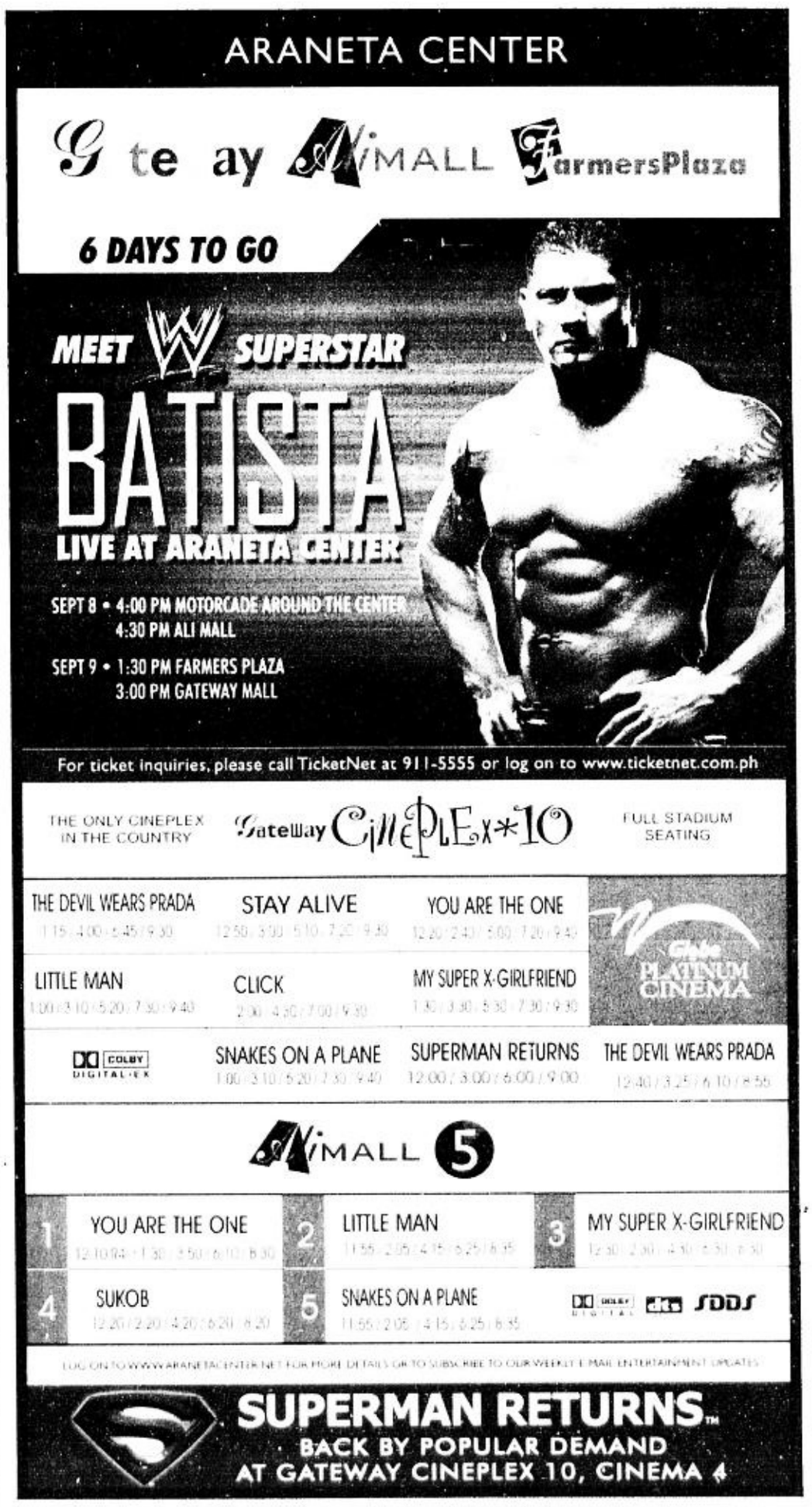
The summa cum laude graduate from Oxford pointed at a replica of the Temple of Vesta, which housed a virgin girl whose job was to maintain the sacred flame. The Romans believed that as long as the flame burns, their city would endure. Jonathan said that a virgin girl as young as nine years old was recruited to serve in the Temple of Vesta for 30 years (hence the origin of the term, vestal virgin).

What happened if a vestal virgin broke her vow of virginity? Or, as Madonna's song goes, "Like a virgin" *na lang siya*? She was buried alive, according to Jonathan. Food was given to the girl when she was buried to sustain and let her live a bit longer, and therefore, suffer longer. One perk, though, of being a vestal virgin was that she got the best seat in the Colosseum, right next to the Emperor.

As we continued our walking tour, Jonathan revealed that the Italian crew, used to the practice of dialogue being dubbed later in post-production, had to be told repeatedly to be quiet during a take. He narrated how once, the cell phone of a gaffer, who was high up on a crane, rang in the middle of a take. This crew member answered the phone and proceeded to talk on the phone for five minutes, unmindful of the consternation he was causing among the cast

IN ROME/ G2





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1 LITTLE MAN
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

3 YOU ARE THE ONE
2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 10:00
PG-13

4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 LITTLE MAN
MTRCB R-13
12.40, 3:00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00

2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB. PG-13
12.00, 2:30, 5.00, 7:30 10:00

3 YOU ARE THE ONE
MTRCB PG-13
12.05, 2.30, 4.55, 7.20, 9.45

4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
MTRCB PG-13
1.00, 3 15, 5.30, 7.45, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
MTRCB R-13
12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00

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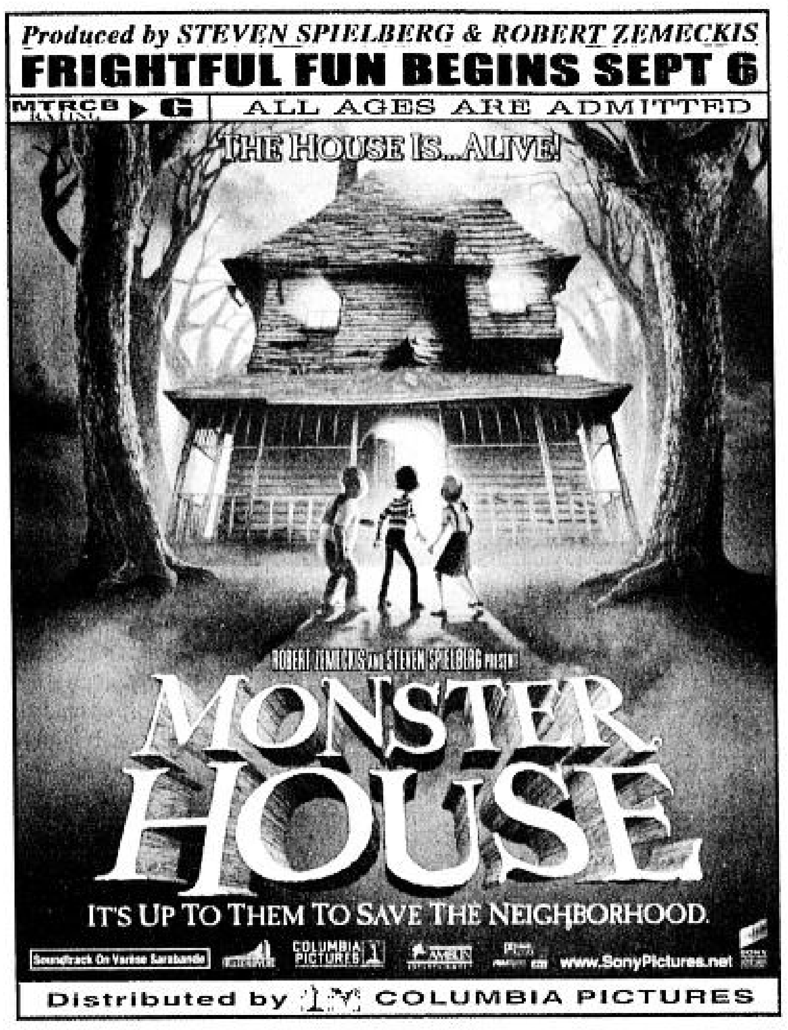
It turns out that the ancient Romans believed phallic symbols brought good luck and warded off evil spirits



COLUMNIST says his heart "beat faster" at the sight of the entrance to the legendary Cinecitta Studios.

THE MOVIE'S major stars, from left: James Purefoy, Ciaran Hinds and Kevin McKidd

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CAGAYAN VALLEY

ABULUG
LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,675 sqm. F.A.: 54 sqm.
L2857 Brgy Rd Calog Sur
Min Bid Price 74,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 3,333 sqm.
L2854-D Prov'L Rd Calog Sur
Min Bid Price 136,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 2,938 sqm.
Lot 3047-D Interior Lot W/ No Access PloM
Min Bid Price 39,000.00

ALLACAPAN
LOT 4 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,082 sqm. F.A.: 278 sqm.
L21-B Mun Rd Centro East
Min Bid Price 1,557,000.00

APARRI
LOT 5 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,015 sqm. F.A. 58 sqm.
Lot No. 6110-A Landlocked,Binalan
Min Bid Price 35,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 500 sqm. F.A.: 166 sqm.
Lot No. 701-P-7-C-3 Nat'L Rd. Macanaya District
Min Bid Price 2,678,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 516.65 sqm. F.A.: 72 sqm.
Lot 806-A-3 Subd. Rd. Pt-Subd., Macanaya Dist.
Min Bid Price 846,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 1,000 sqm. [illegible]
Min Bid Price 2,000,000.00
WITHDRAWN

BALLESTEROS
LOT 9 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,850 sqm. F.A.: 86 sqm.
Lot 4131 Brgy. Rd. Amunuboan
Min Bid Price 330,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 306 sqm. F.A.: 106 sqm.
Lot No. 1455-B Ogaleo St. Cabalran East
Min Bid Price 439,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 2,800 sqm.
Lot 728 Arcena St. Cabarilan East
Min Bid Price 105,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 6,122 sqm.
L1151 Landlocked Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price 80,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 246 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
Lot 825 Prov'L Rd Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price 43,000.00

LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 904 sqm.
Lot 864 Landlocked Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price 19,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 6,170 sqm. F.A.: 73 sqm.
L1480 Brgy. Rd. Cabuluan East
Min Bid Price 258,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 2,179 sqm. F.A.: 246 sqm.
Lot 8046 Cor.Rizal, Concepcion & Luna Sts. Centro East
Min Bid Price 1,400,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,427 sqm.
Lot 6204-I Nat'L Rd. Fugu
Min Bid Price 187,250.00

LOT 18 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,620 sqm. F.A.: 95 sqm.
Lot No. 4962-C Prov'L Rd. Mabuttal
Min Bid Price 494,000.00

LOT 19 - AGRILAND
L.A.: 1,414 sqm.
Lot 6360 Brgy Rd Mabuttal
Min Bid Price 46,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 9,404 sqm. F.A.: 333 sqm.
Lot # 4665 Bonifacio Comez St. Poblacion
Min Bid Price 387,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,124 sqm. F.A.: 276 sqm.
Lot No. 3218 Prov'L Rd. Sta. Cruz
Min Bid Price 909,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,273 sqm. F.A.: 242 sqm.
Lot No. 4190-C Brgy. Rd Access Rd Sta Cruz
Min Bid Price 1,049,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 3,131 sqm. F.A.: 99 sqm.
L3121 Landlocked Sta Cruz
Min Bid Price 90,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 2,174 sqm. F.A.: 236 sqm.
Lot 881 Prov'L Rd Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price 682,000.00

CAMALANIUGAN
LOT 25 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 600 sqm. F.A.: 314 sqm.
L2446-A Nat'L Rd Dacal Lafugu
Min Bid Price 2,119,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 626 sqm. F.A.: 63 sqm.
Lot 10006 Interior Lot W/ Rd Right Of Way Catotoran Norte
Min Bid Price 281,000.00

GATTARAN
LOT 27 - AGRILAND
L.A.: 3,142 sqm.
Lot 715-B Nat'L Rd Aguiguican
Min Bid Price 176,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 4,347 sqm. F.A.: 195 sqm.
Lot 174-B Land Locked Cullit
Min Bid Price 240,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,114 sqm. F.A.: 78 sqm.
Lot 937-A-2 Land Locked Cullit
Min Bid Price 47,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 720 sqm. F.A.: 91 sqm.
Lot 1309-A Nat'L Rd Guising
Min Bid Price 95,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 4,360 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
Lot 1399-B Nat'L Rd Lapogan
Min Bid Price 408,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 4,179 sqm. F.A.: 203 sqm.
Lot 865-B Prov'L Rd Brgy Rd Nassiping
Min Bid Price 338,000.00

LAL-LO
LOT 33 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 1,044 [illegible]
Min Bid Price 89,000.00
WITHDRAWN

LOT 34 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 151 sqm.
Lot 9-1-A Nat'L Rd Lalafugan
Min Bid Price 883,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,810 sqm. F.A.: 111 sqm.
Lot E-2 Nat'L Rd Lalafugan.
Min Bid Price 598,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 172 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lot No. 3115-A Nat'L Rd Sta. Maria
Min Bid Price 179,000.00

LASAM
LOT 37 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 538 sqm. F.A.: 282 sqm.
Lot 3 Nat'L Rd Centro 1
Min Bid Price 1,164,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,013 sqm. F.A.: 221 sqm.
Lot E-4 Ignacio, Jurado
Min Bid Price 1,100,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 2,500 sqm. F.A.: 168 sqm.
LA-2-B Nat'L Rd Nabannagan East
Min Bid Price 961,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,378 sqm. F.A.: 81 sqm.
L31-B Int. Lot W/ Rd Right Of Way Nabannagan East
Min Bid Price 396,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 7,285 sqm. F.A.: 128 sqm.
LA-2-C Nat'L Rd Nabannagan East
Min Bid Price 513,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,435 sqm.
Lot E-3 Ignacio Jurado St.
Min Bid Price 104,000.00

[illegible]
LOT 43 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 3,084 sqm.
Lot 1504 Brgy Rd Aquib
Min Bid Price 100,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,605 sqm.
Lot 1393 Land Locked Maguilling
Min Bid Price 21,000.00

SANCHEZ MIRA
LOT 45 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 10,534 sqm.
L3851 Brgy Rd Dagueray
Min Bid Price 169,000.00

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 553 sqm.
Lot 1000 Brgy Rd Nammaeo
Min Bid Price 47,000.00

[illegible]
LOT 47 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 7,470 sqm.
Lot 1324 Brgy Rd Basi
Min Bid Price 288,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,664 sqm.
L4040 Prov'L Rd Barrio Rd. Lanna
Min Bid Price 65,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 530 sqm.
Lot 4051 Prov'L Rd Lanna
Min Bid Price 24,000.00

LOT 50 - AGRILAND
L.A.: 42,643 sqm.
L8314-B Land Locked Lanna
Min Bid Price 336,000.00

[illegible]
LOT 51 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,455 sqm. F.A.: 104 sqm
Lot 146 Brgy Rd Baracbac
Min Bid Price 236,000.00

STO. NIÑO
LOT 52 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 5,374 sqm.
Lot 4931 Barrio Rd Balani
Min Bid Price 36,000.00

[illegible]
LOT 53 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,500 sqm. F.A.: 83 sqm
Lot 754-A-1 Nat'L Rd Nat'L Highway Bulanao
Min Bid Price 1,136,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,250 sqm. F.A.: 88 sqm.
Lot 2267 Brgy Rd Bulanao
Min Bid Price 507,000.00

LOT 55 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 392 sqm.
L744-C Subd Rd Bulanao
Min Bid Price 200,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 600 sqm. F.A.: 22 sqm.
L569-A-14-A Prov'L Rd Laya West
Min Bid Price 259,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 2,250 sqm. F.A.: 133 sqm.
L247-A-4 Balakang St Nasqueban
Min Bid Price 431,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 462.50 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
L184-F-2 Rd Right Of Way Nasqueban
Min Bid Price 444,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 635 sqm. F.A. 127 sqm.
L1772-B Roxas Mayangao St., Pob
Min Bid Price 1,264,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 600 sqm. F.A.: 176 sqm.
Lot 19-F Prov'L Rd Laya East
Min Bid Price 594,000.00

TUAO
LOT 61 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 5,031 sqm.
Lot No. 1386 Brgy. Rd., Dagupan
Min Bid Price 69,000.00

LOT 62 - AGRILAND
L.A.: 128,371 sqm.
Lot H-186574 Dagupan
Min Bid Price 100,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,413 sqm.
Lot No. 1518-A Brgy Rd Fugu
Min Bid Price 21,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,413 sqm.
Lot No. 1518-B Brgy. Rd. Fugu
Min Bid Price 21,000.00

LOT 65 - AGRILAND
L.A.: 1,414 sqm.
Lot 1518-D Brgy Rd Fugu
Min Bid Price 28,000.00

LOT 66 - AGRILAND
L.A.: 2,338 sqm.
Lot No. 3736 Landlocked Lallayug
Min Bid Price 12,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 7,424 sqm. F.A.: 82 sqm.
Lot 1009 Brgy Rd Palca(Angang)
Min Bid Price 99,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 7,274 sqm.
Lot 1031 Barrio Rd Palca
Min Bid Price 100,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 6,757 sqm.
Lot 965 Barrio Rd Palca
Min Bid Price 154,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 10,000 sqm.
Lot 1-A Brgy Rd Villa Laida
Min Bid Price 128,000.00

TUGUEGARAO
LOT 71 - AGRILAND
L.A.: 2,770 sqm.
Lot 7529 Linao West
Min Bid Price 13,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 393 sqm. F.A.: 128 sqm.
L1269-E,12-B Luna St. Extn., Ugac Sur
Min Bid Price 568,000.00

[illegible]
LOT 73 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 24,968 sqm.
Lots 2101 & 2102 Liwan
Min Bid Price 158,000.00

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

CAGAYAN

LOT 74 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A. 1,151 sqm.
L961 Undeveloped Rd. Bagu.
Minimum Bid Price : 32,000.00

LOT 75 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,816 sqm.
Lot 2074-F Brgy. Rd. Calog Sur
Minimum Bid Price 75,000.00

LOT 76 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 899 sqm. F.A. 249 sqm.
Lot 6-E-3-P Municipal Rd. Centro
Minimum Bid Price : 738,000.00

LOT 77 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 350 sqm. F.A.: 291 sqm.
Lot 23-B Nat'L Rd Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 1,167,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,006 sqm. F.A. 297 sqm.
Lot 12-C-3-A Nat'L Rd. Iringan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,516,000.00

LOT 79 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 607 sqm.
Lot 906 Brgy Rd Mapurao.
Minimum Bid Price : 24,000.00

LOT 80 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 597 sqm.
Lot 1000 Brgy Rd Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price 24,000.00

LOT 81 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 601 sqm.
Lot 1600 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price 12,000.00

LOT 82 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 593 sqm.
Lot 1601 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price 12,000.00

LOT 83 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 602 sqm.
Lot 1602 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price 12,000.00

LOT 84 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 594 sqm.
Lot 1116 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price 12,000.00

LOT 85 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 600 sqm.
Lot 1117 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price 12,000.00

LOT 86 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 620 sqm.
Lot 1130 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 13,000.00

LOT 87 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 593 sqm.
Lot 1132 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 12,000.00

LOT 88 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 593 sqm.
Lot 996 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 12,000.00

LOT 89 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 600 sqm.
Lot 1118 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price 12,000.00

LOT 90 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 593 sqm.
Lot 1134 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 12,000.00

LOT 91 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 598 sqm.
Lot 1115 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 12,000.00

LOT 92 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 598 sqm.
Lot 1133 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 12,000.00

LOT 93 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 599 sqm.
Lot 1131 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 12,000.00

LOT 94 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 614 sqm.
Lot 1125 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price 12,000.00

LOT 95 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 598 sqm.
Lot 1105 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 12,000.00

LOT 96 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 597 sqm.
Lot 1106 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 12,000.00

LOT 97 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,662 sqm.
Lot B Interior Lot Malayo
Minimum Bid Price 47,000.00

LOT 98 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 599 sqm.
Lot 1171 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 11,000.00

LOT 99 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 597 sqm.
Lot 1172 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 11,000.00

LOT 100 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 603 sqm.
Lot 1309 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 11,000.00

LOT 101 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 597 sqm.
Lot 1310 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 11,000.00

LOT 102 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 597 sqm.
Lot 1866 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 11,000.00

LOT 103 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 600 sqm.
Lot 2116 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price : 11,000.00

LOT 104 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 600 sqm.
Lot 2117 Mapurao
Minimum Bid Price 11,000.00

LOT 105 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 622 sqm. F.A. 138 sqm.
Lot 5235-C Nat'L Rd. Nanapparan
Minimum Bid Price 97,000.00

LOT 106 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 741 sqm.
L352-A Interior Lot W/ Alley Centro
Minimum Bid Price 434,000.00

LOT 107 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 362 sqm. F.A.: 315 sqm.
Lot-4765 Nat'L Rd Tanungan
Minimum Bid Price 1,058,000.00

LOT 108 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 2,097 sqm.
Lot No 2908 Brgy. Rd. Linao
Minimum Bid Price 47,000.00

LOT 109 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 3,856 sqm.
Lot 3579-A-2-A Nat'L Rd. Pallung
Minimum Bid Price 112,000.00

LOT 110 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,823 sqm.
L1426 Brgy. Rd. Cabuluan West
Minimum Bid Price 67,000.00

LOT 111 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A. 1,653 sqm. F.A. 107 sqm.
Lot 6390 Brgy Rd. Nararagan
Minimum Bid Price 73,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 11,002 sqm. F.A. 103 sqm.
Lot 3-I Brgy Rd Nararagan
Minimum Bid Price 122,000.00

LOT 113 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A. 10489 sqm. F.A. 77 sqm.
Lots 3-A & 3-C Landlocked Brgy Rd Nararagan
Minimum Bid Price : 127,000.00

LOT 114 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 35,834 sqm.
Lot 6396 Brgy Rd. Nararagan
Minimum Bid Price 259,000.00

LOT 115 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 713 sqm.
Lot 6405 Landlocked Zitanga
Minimum Bid Price 26,000.00

LOT 116 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 4,903 sqm.
Lot 6382 Landlocked Nararagan
Minimum Bid Price 45,000.00

LOT 117 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 3,450 sqm. F.A. 80 sqm.
Lot 4018 Brgy. Rd. Pallao, Baguay
Minimum Bid Price 73,000.00

LOT 118 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,086 sqm.
L1-A Brgy. Rd Villa Gracia, Baguay
Minimum Bid Price 44,000.00

LOT 119 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A. 4,171 sqm.
Lot 1709 Nat'L Rd. Balala
Minimum Bid Price 1,158,000.00

LOT 120 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 595 sqm. F.A.: 254 sqm.
Lot-2 Prov'L Rd. Nabaccayan
Minimum Bid Price 1,797,000.00

LOT 121 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 5,395 sqm. F.A.: 121 sqm.
Lot 934-B Brgy Rd Cullit
Minimum Bid Price 206,000.00

LOT 122 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 5,486 sqm.
L114-F-2 Landlocked Lot Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 179,000.00

LOT 123 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 9,448 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lot 174-C Landlocked Cullit
Minimum Bid Price 134,000.00

LOT 124 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 4,002 sqm.
Lot 1571 Landlocked Gurisng, San Vicente
Minimum Bid Price 65,000.00

LOT 125 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 779 sqm. F.A.: 250 sqm.
Lot 7379 Rizal St. Gonzaga
Minimum Bid Price 187,000.00

LOT 126 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 2,731 sqm.
Lot 37 Nat'l Rd. Ipil, Gonzaga.
Minimum Bid Price : 103,000.00

LOT 127 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,397 sqm.
Lot 969 Pines St., Gonzaga, Centro
Minimum Bid Price 236,000.00

LOT 128 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A. 25.47 sqm.
Lot-C Brgy Rd Batangan Gonzaga
Minimum Bid Price 210,000.00

LOT 129 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 11,394 sqm.
Lot-B Brgy Rd Batangan Gonzaga
Minimum Bid Price 139,000.00

LOT 130 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A. 19,932 sqm. F.A. 63 sqm.
Lot-H Brgy. Rd Calayan, Gonzaga
Minimum Bid Price 253,000.00

LOT 131 W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A. 230 sqm. F.A. 28 sqm.
Lot 11 Nat'l Rd Ipil, Gonzaga
Minimum Bid Price 35,000.00

LOT 132 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A. 21,543 sqm.
Lot 1451 & 1452 Brgy Rd Mmango
Minimum Bid Price 296,450.00

LOT 133 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 203 sqm.
Lot 317 Nat'l Rd. Baua, Gonzaga
Minimum Bid Price 19,000.00

LOT 134 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A. 313.50 sqm. F.A. 116 sqm.
Lot 547-A-2 Nat'L Rd. Maxingal(Now) San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 319,000.00

LOT 135 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 303 sqm. F.A. 191 sqm.
Lot 291 Nat'L Rd Maxingal
Minimum Bid Price 504,000.00

LOT 136 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 899 sqm.
Lot No 5962 Landlocked Alaguia
Minimum Bid Price 7,000.00

LOT 137 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 590 sqm. F.A. 64 sqm.
Lot 3386-S Municipal Rd. Centro 2
Minimum Bid Price 82,000.00

LOT 138 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 500 sqm. F.A. 48 sqm.
Lot 4-A Nat'L Rd. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price 84,000.00

LOT 139 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 2,486 sqm.
Lot 6131-A Prov'L Rd. Finugu Norte
Minimum Bid Price 112,000.00

LOT 140 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 19,580 sqm. F.A. 156 sqm.
Lot 3491-J Nat'L Rd San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price 163,000.00

LOT 141 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 630 sqm. F.A.: 101 sqm.
Lot 6 Landlocked Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 214,000.00

LOT 142 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 942 sqm.
Lot 3401-Nn Nle Rd. Alannay, Lasam, Cagayan
Minimum Bid Price 23,000.00

LOT 143 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 5,466 sqm.
L3012-D-3-D Landlocked Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 192,000.00

LOT 144 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 3,680 sqm.
Lot No 2846 Brgy Rd. Bagu
Minimum Bid Price 125,000.00

LOT 145 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,183 sqm.
Lot 1890 Nalloplan, Solana
Minimum Bid Price 54,000.00

LOT 146 - AGRILAND WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 14,781 sqm.
Lot 275, Nat'l Road, Racat
Minimum Bid Price 165,000.00

LOT 147 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 598 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lot 550 Brgy Rd. Casambalangan
Minimum Bid Price 105,000.00

LOT 148 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A. 4,486 sqm.
Lot 267 Nat'L Rd Racat
Minimum Bid Price 121,000.00

LOT 149 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,163 sqm.
Lot 1248 Municipal Road, Diora Site
Minimum Bid Price 124,000.00

LOT 150 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,338 sqm.
L986 Pines St. Gonzaga Centro
Minimum Bid Price 280,000.00

LOT 151 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 452 sqm.
Lot 586 Nat'L Rd Casambalangan, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Minimum Bid Price : 118,000.00

LOT 152 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 288 sqm
Lot 596-C Brgy. Rd. Tangatan, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Minimum Bid Price 24,000.00

LOT 153 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,800 sqm.
Lot 944-B Mun. Rd. Centro, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Minimum Bid Price 176,000.00

LOT 154 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,212 sqm.
Lot 1215 Undeveloped Rd Diora Site Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Minimum Bid Price 78,000.00

LOT 155 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,154 sqm.
Lot 1262 Undeveloped Rd. Diora Site, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Minimum Bid Price 74,000.00

LOT 156 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,250 sqm.
Lot 1110 Undeveloped Rd. Diora Site, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Minimum Bid Price 76,000.00

LOT 157 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 647 sqm.
Lot 639 Undeveloped Brgy. Rd. Casambalangan
Minimum Bid Price : 44,000.00

LOT 158 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,249 sqm.
L1042 Undeveloped Rd. Diora Site
Minimum Bid Price 86,000.00

LOT 159 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 4,394 sqm.
L12-C Landlocked, Diora Visitacion
Minimum Bid Price 93,000.00

LOT 160 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A. 4,754 sqm.
L1938 Brgy Rd Nle Rd Sinipatuyo
Minimum Bid Price 125,000.00

LOT 161 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 742 sqm.
Lot 2556 Prov'L Rd Buyon
Minimum Bid Price 30,000.00

LOT 162 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,174.50 sqm.
Lot No. 3728-D Servando Liban, Brgy. Ji. Balzam, Tuguegarao City
Minimum Bid Price 1,287,000.00

ISABELA

LOT 163 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A. 6,019 sqm. F.A. 90 sqm.
Lot 1405 Canangan, Angadanan
Minimum Bid Price 940,000.00

LOT 164 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 315 sqm.
Lot 4, Cor. Provincial Rd. & Cocal Sts., Bagon Lunas
Minimum Bid Price 454,000.00

LOT 165 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 319.75 sqm.
Lot 3508-H, Provincial Rd
Minimum Bid Price 152,000.00

LOT 166 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 70,044 sqm.
Lot 1470 Brgy. Rd Raniag
Minimum Bid Price 343,000.00

LOT 167 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,800 sqm.
Lot 2219-A Barrio Of Cubag
Minimum Bid Price 74,000.00

LOT 168 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 640 sqm.
Lot 424-C, Friar Lands Estate
Minimum Bid Price 154,000.00

LOT 169 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 200 sqm. F.A.: 72 sqm.
Lot 1-J-2-B Cabatuan
Minimum Bid Price 444,000.00

LOT 170 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A. 450 sqm. F.A. 420 sqm.
Lot 20-E-6-E-1 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 8,406,000.00

LOT 171 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A. 2,000 sqm.
Lot B-5-E Lot B-5-F-3-S-6, Nat'L Road, Pranza
Minimum Bid Price 6,843,000.00

LOT 172 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A. 223 sqm. F.A.: 77 sqm.
L599-B Along Prov'l Rd San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 300,000.00

LOT 173 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,105 sqm.
L1-B-2 Along Provincial Road Rizal
Minimum Bid Price 282,000.00

LOT 174 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 233 sqm. F.A.: 191 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 7 P. Apostol St Calamagui 2Nd
Minimum Bid Price 456,000.00

LOT 175 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 308 sqm.
Lot 3-A, Blk 3 Calamagui 2Nd
Minimum Bid Price 197,000.00

LOT 176 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 503 sqm. F.A.: 102 sqm.
Lot 7135-A Alinguigan 2Nd
Minimum Bid Price : 446,000.00

LOT 177 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,327 sqm.
Lot 4 Casuga St. Bagoilon Norte
Minimum Bid Price 252,000.00

LOT 178 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 1,102.50 sqm.
Lot 1-A Brgy San Ramon
Minimum Bid Price : 363,000.00

LOT 179 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A. 1,643 sqm. F.A.: 148 sqm.
Lot 166-C, Brgy. Muñoz East Roxas
Minimum Bid Price 636,000.00

LOT 180 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A. 9,030 sqm. F.A. 179 sqm.
L3886-A,B,D &F. Prov'l Rd., Basilio
Minimum Bid Price : 2,166,000.00

LOT 181 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A. 1,826 sqm. F.A. 119 sqm.
Lot 2-A & Lot 2-B-2 Along Provincial Road, Ilasaya Sur
Minimum Bid Price 575,000.00

LOT 182 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 20 Victoria (Now Dona Paulina)
Minimum Bid Price 120,000.00

LOT 183 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A.: 451 sqm.
Lot 11039-H, Cafaocan(Now Brgy.1)
Minimum Bid Price 1,852,000.00

LOT 184 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
L.A. 451 sqm.
Lot 11039-G Cafaocan(Now Brgy.1)
Minimum Bid Price 1,692,000.00

LOT 185 - LOT W/IMPRVT
L.A.: 2,451 sqm. F.A. 160 sqm.
Lots 4-K & 4-L Brgy Rd. Cabaritan
Minimum Bid Price 772,000.00

LOT 186 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,968 sqm.
Lot 2663 Nat'L Road Brgy. Lanna
Minimum Bid Price : 448,000.00

LOT 187 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 222 sqm.
Lot 2412-C San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price 107,000.00

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In Rome for 'Rome'

From page G1

and crew on the ground.

We stopped by a set of Rome's poor section. A place where fabrics were dyed in those early days was painstakingly built. We learned that poor Romans earned money by selling their urine, which was then used to help extract dye from the skin of animals.

Phallic symbols

No one could avoid staring at a huge painting of a phallus on one of the set walls. It turns out that the ancient Romans, who were a superstitious lot, believed that phallic symbols brought good luck and warded off evil spirits. So they painted phalluses on their front doors, displayed statues and wore amulets that depicted the erect male member. These were in abundant display throughout the set. Everyone was suddenly grinning at this point in the set tour.

Jonathan next took us to the public latrines. He explained that back then, only the rich had running water and toilets in their lavish homes. The masses—men and women—paid to relieve themselves in rows, in full view of each other, and shared a brush and a bucket to wash and wipe themselves. Jonathan shared that one time, when American International School students whom he was guiding finally understood the concept of a public latrine, a collective "Eeewwww!" sprang forth from their mouths. The disgusted scream could be heard all the way to downtown Rome, he smilingly told us.

On the walls of this re-creation of a public latrine is graffiti which apparently was all over then—in Latin *nga lang*.

We were asked to be quiet as we approached the set where actual filming was taking place. A scream of "Silencio!" and "Cut!" signaled the beginning and end of a take. In this scene that's going to be in an episode titled "Death Mask," James Purefoy and Polly Walker flirted with each other as they attended the wedding of the characters Posca and Jocasta. Polly's striking eyes were very expressive.

Incidentally, James and Polly have done their bit in sexing up "Rome." James' full frontal nudity in season one created a lot of buzz. Our introduction to Polly's character in the series was as she rode naked a lover with her slaves also in the room.

Shades on the lot

In between takes, men in togas wore anachronistic sunglasses to walk from the indoors set out into Rome's hot summer sunshine. Costumed women strolled in as goats were also being herded in to add color to the scene.

After a leisurely lunch break (the largely English cast said that they enjoy the Italian lifestyle of appreciating the good life and not rushing through meals), it was time for interviews at the lavish villa of Polly's character. Red rose petals adorned the foyer. We were split into groups in an indoor garden with real plants.

The principals on the set this afternoon—James, Polly, Ray Stevenson, Lindsay Duncan and Kevin McKidd—are distinguished actors, with impeccable theater acting credentials. Lindsay alone, who plays Servilia, twice won the Olivier Award for Best Actress for "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" and "Private Lives."

James shared our enthusiasm for Cinecitta. "This studio is a piece of European film heritage," said the actor who starred opposite Reese Witherspoon in Mira Nair's "Vanity Fair." "I never get bored of the drive to work, going past the Colosseum in that pink light of dawn, past the Forum and then arriving at our own

IN ROME G4

DID YOU KNOW...

THIS WEEK IN ...
1988: Actor Kevin Bacon married actress Kyra Sedgwick.
1996: Rapper Tupac Shakur and record company executive Suge Knight were shot while driving in Las Vegas. Shakur died six days later.
2002: Kelly Clarkson was named "American Idol," beating out Justin Guarini and winning a recording contract.

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---*Christy Lemire, AP [Associated Press]*

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SNAKES ON A PLANE PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:35,3:55,6:15,8:35	LITTLE MAN R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55
YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND R13 1:05,3:10,5:15,7:20,9:25	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:05,3:25,5:45, 8:05,10:30

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CINEMA 3 SNAKE ON A PLANE 11:45 , 2:05 , 4:20 6:35 , 8:50 R-13
CINEMA 4 YOU ARE THE ONE 11:20 , 2:00 , 4:40 7:20 , 10:00 GP
CINEMA 5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 11:35 , 2:20 , 5:05 7:50 , 10:35 PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

SEPT. 14 , 2006	DANITA PANER	8:00PM
SEPT. 15 & 16 , 2006	ERIK SANTOS & RUFFA MAE QUINTO	8:00PM

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2 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 (DOLBY) SNAKES ON A PLANE
PREVIEW
(DOLBY) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Masagana CINEMA
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2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CLICK

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1 MIAMI VICE
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING

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1 STORMBREAKER
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 TAMARA

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
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2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

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5 MORTUARY

metropolis star cinema
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3? YOUR AR THE ONE
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3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 S. P. L.

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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
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2 THE BREAK UP
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 YOUR AR THE ONE
6 LITTLE MAN
7 YOUR AR THE ONE
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE
9 MORTUARY
10 YOUR AR THE ONE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN

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4 SEX EDUCATION
5 AMERICAN HAUNTING

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Floor Area 1,001.00 sqm.
Lot 3& 4, Blk. 1, Clark Ave Villasol Subd., Santol
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LOT 2 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 446.00 sqm.
Floor Area 210.00 sqm.
Lot 678-C Macarthur Highway Balibago
Minimum Bid Price 5,256,000.00

LOT 3 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 2,759 sqm.
Lot 2-C-7, 2-C-8& 2-C-9, Fil-Am Friendship H-Way, Lot 701
Minimum Bid Price 1,806,000.00

APALIT

LOT 4 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 282.00 sqm.
Floor Area 144.00 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk. 6, 694 (024) Santa St., San Vicente Vill., Sitio Sampaga
Minimum Bid Price : 392,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 429.00 sqm.
Floor Area 103.00 sqm.
Lot 589, Plaza Rd., 514 Rd. Dike, Brgy. San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 682,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 421.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 76.00 sqm.
Lot 1212-B-6-Ee-1 Rd Right Of Eay Dange, Colgante
Minimum Bid Price 250,000.00

LOT 7 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 180.00 sqm.
Lot 21/ Blk. 13. Rd Lot 12. St. Peter Subd., San Vicente, Apalit
Minimum Bid Price : 92,000.00

LOT 8 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 180.00 sqm.
Lot 19/Blk. 13 Rd Lot 12. St. Peter Subd., San Vicente
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LOT 9 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 379.00 sqm.
Floor Area 145.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Brgy.Rd Purok II Cacutud
Minimum Bid Price : 826,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 341.00 sqm.
Lot 3056-A Brgy. Batil
Minimum Bid Price 102,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 450.00 sqm.
Floor Area 96.00 sqm.
Lot 2478-C-19. Brgy. Rd., Brgy San Agustin Norte
Minimum Bid Price 410,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 213.00 sqm.
Floor Area 400.00 sqm.
Lot 187, Calle M. Alejandro Cor., Lopez (Cacutud) Sts., Pob
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LOT 13 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 600.00 sqm.
Lot 320, Brgy. Rd., No. 31, Purok 6 Brgy Camba
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LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 3,244.00 sqm.
Lot 2036-E Magalang-Arayat Pro'L Road Gatiawin
Minimum Bid Price : 927,000.00

LOT 15 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 743.00 sqm.
Lot 2284-J-1-C Brgy. Gatiawin
Minimum Bid Price : 238,000.00

LOT 16 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,152.00 sqm.
Lot 12,14,16 18 20 21.22.18 Rd Lot 8,9 10 Mountain View., Brgy Gatiawin
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LOT 17 - VACANT LOT
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LOT 18 - VACANT LOT
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Lot 9 & 1 Sta Barbara
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LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 6,656.00 sqm.
Lot 3653. Brgy Potrero
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FLORIDABLANCA

LOT 20 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 211,666.00 sqm.
Lot 87 Pabanlag
Minimum Bid Price 1,101,000.00

GUAGUA

LOT 21 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 1,907.00 sqm.
Lot 3-B Ascomo, Pulungmasle
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LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 3,195 sqm.
Lot 1-R& Lot 1-S, Lot 1-K, Brgy. San Matias
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LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 988 sqm.
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LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Lot 1-E, Rd Lot, San Matias
Minimum Bid Price : 210,000.00

LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 1-F, Rd Lot, San Matias
Minimum Bid Price : 210,000.00

LOT 26 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 1-G, Rd Lot, San Matias
Minimum Bid Price : 210,000.00

LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 1-H Rd Lot, San Matias
Minimum Bid Price : 210,000.00

LOT 28 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 375.00 sqm.
Lot 1-I, Rd. Lot, San Matias
Minimum Bid Price : 263,000.00

LOT 29 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 486.00 sqm.
Lot 1-J, Rd. Lot, San Matias
Minimum Bid Price : 341,000.00

LOT 30 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 158.00 sqm.
Lot 2/ Blk 7 Rd Cerville Subd. Brgy. Sto Cristo
Minimum Bid Price : 28,000.00

LOT 31 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 422.00 sqm.
Lot 2-J Rd Cerville Subd Brgy. Sto Cristo
Minimum Bid Price : 72,000.00

LUBAO

LOT 32 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,254.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 146.00 sqm.
Lot 3133-B, Along Prov'L. Rd. San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 943,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,666.00 sqm.
Floor Area 76.00 sqm.
Lot 6-A Rd Right Of Way Sitio Palcarangan, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 521,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,875 sqm.
Floor Area. 413.00 sqm.
Lots 5700 &5701 Brgy Rd Sitio Piguiut. Brgy. Sta Lucia
Minimum Bid Price 1,523,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 169.20 sqm.
Floor Area 140.00 sqm.
Lot 929-B Brgy Rd. San Rfafael, Baruya
Minimum Bid Price : 374,000.00

LOT 36 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 1,069.00 sqm.
Lot 1-H-3, Road Lot 1-J. San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 300,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,069.00 sqm.
Lot 1-I-4 Prov'L Road. San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 420,000.00

LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 1,069.00 sqm.
Lot 1-I-I Road Lot 1-J San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 300,000.00

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 1,069.00 sqm.
Lot 1-H-2, Road Lot 1-J, San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 300,000.00

LOT 40 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,069.00 sqm.
Lot 1-H-1, Road Lot 1-J. San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price 300,000.00

LOT 41 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,069.00 sqm.
Lot 1-I-2 Road Lot 1-J San Roque Dau 1St,
Minimum Bid Price : 300,000.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,069.00 sqm.
Lot 1-I-3 Road Lot 1-J San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price 300,000.00

MACABEBE

LOT 43 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 114.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 154.00 sqm.
Lot 948 Brgy Rd Cadaong Tete
Minimum Bid Price 850,000.00

MAGALANG

LOT 44 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 5,670.00 sqm.
Lot 596-B-10 Prov'L. Rd. Purok 1, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price 596,000.00

MEXICO

LOT 45 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 270.00 sqm.
Floor Area 106.00 sqm.
Lot 11, Blk. 6, Rd. Lot 6 472 St. Joseph Subd., San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price : 378,000.00

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 810 sqm.
Lot 1, 2& 3/Blk. 9 Subd. Rd. San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price 454,000.00

MINALIN

LOT 47 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 254.00 sqm.
Floor Area 108.00 sqm.
Lot 372 Caloocan(Rd Lot 936) 232 Caloocan St Brgy Lourdes
Minimum Bid Price : 141,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 255.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 130.00 sqm.
Lot 371 Caloocan(Rd Lot 936) 228 Caloocan St Brgy Lourdes
Minimum Bid Price : 303,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 162.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 120.00 sqm.
Lot 404 #44 Benito St., Brgy Lourdes,
Minimum Bid Price 213,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 501.00 sqm.
Floor Area 90.00 sqm.
Lot 296 308 Benito St., Lourdes
Minimum Bid Price : 168,000.00

LOT 51 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 4/ Blk 15. Subd Rd (Lot 9), Sta. Rita Subd., Sta Rita
Minimum Bid Price 46,000.00

PORAC

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 380 sqm.
Lots 1& 2 Blk 7 Lahar Area Manbaug-Pasig, Porac, Pampanga
Minimum Bid Price : 27,000.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 1,615.00 sqm.
Lot 3-C-6-A-1 Lahar Area Manibaug
Minimum Bid Price 77,000.00

SAN FERNANDO

LOT 54 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 240.00 sqm.
Floor Area 108.00 sqm.
Lot 7, Blk. 2, Gen. Hizon Ave
Minimum Bid Price : 2,035,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 419.00 sqm.
Floor Area 282.00 sqm.
Lot 3300-C-3 Alley, Bo Mampis
Minimum Bid Price 1,243,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 565.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 146.00 sqm.
Lot 2, St Lot 1, Brgy Del Pilar
Minimum Bid Price : 1,137,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 191.00 sqm.
Floor Area 182.00 sqm.
Lot 29-B Brgy Rd.# 531 Purok 1. San Jose Ponduan
Minimum Bid Price : 864,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area 129.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Brgy Rd San Juan & Sto Nino
Minimum Bid Price : 584,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 496.00 sqm.
Lot 3-A-9 Rd Lot San Agustin
Minimum Bid Price 318,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 361.00 sqm.
Lot 20 Blk 10 Road Lot 7 Olivas Subd., San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price 100,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 250.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 2Rd Lot David Subd. San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price 54,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 250.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 2 Rd Lot David Subd., San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price 56,000.00

LOT 63 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 260.00 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 2 Er Lot David Subd., San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price 56,000.00

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 255.00 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 2 Rd Lot David Subd., San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price 55,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 352.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 2 Rd Lot David Subd., San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price 75,000.00

SAN LUIS

LOT 66 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 2,395.00 sqm.
Floor Area 95.00 sqm.
Lot 2318-C. Brgy. Rd. # 327 Brgy. San Juan,
Minimum Bid Price 134,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 506.00 sqm.
Lot 22, Brgy Rd., Brgy. San Roque,
Minimum Bid Price 39,000.00

LOT 68 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 20,446.00 sqm.
Lot 2213-F San Juan
Minimum Bid Price 358,000.00

SAN SIMON

LOT 69 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 78.00 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 1 Road Lot 1, Brgy Concepcion,
Minimum Bid Price 16,000.00

STO. TOMAS

LOT 70 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 384 sqm.
Floor Area: 144.00 sqm.
Lot 17& 19/ Blk 3, Subd. Rd Country Sq Subd., San Matias
Minimum Bid Price 454,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 12,185 sqm.
Floor Area. 913.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 1784-C-2-A, Prov'L Rd Brgy San Matias
Minimum Bid Price 2,600,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 528.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 109.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 2, Moon St., Sunrise Subd. San Matias
Minimum Bid Price 300,000.00

LOT 73 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 440.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk. 23, Subd Rd (Rd Lot 21), Balangcas, San Matias
Minimum Bid Price 106,000.00

LOT 74 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,300.00 sqm.
Lot 2063-C-1-C-7-D Brgy. Rd. Sto. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price : 255,000.00

PANGASINAN

BASISTA

LOT 75 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 1,001 sqm.
Floor Area: 336.00 sqm.
Lot 19408-A & 19409-A Magsaysay Ave 094 Brgy Pob
Minimum Bid Price 1,429,000.00

TARLAC

AGUSO

LOT 76 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 551.00 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 6 Salvador Subd.
Minimum Bid Price 118,000.00

LOT 77 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 560.00 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 6 Salvador Subd.
Minimum Bid Price 119,000.00

LOT 78 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 367.00 sqm.
Lots 12 Blk 5 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd.
Minimum Bid Price 79,000.00

LOT 79 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 367.00 sqm.
Lots 14 Blk 5 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd
Minimum Bid Price 79,000.00

CAPAS

LOT 80 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,048.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 90.00 sqm.
Lot 13 Brgy Arangureng, Capaz
Minimum Bid Price 292,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,404 sqm.
Floor Area. 161.00 sqm.
Lots 5 To 10 Blk 8 Narra Rd Lot 5 160 Vargas Village,Sto Domingo II
Minimum Bid Price 939,000.00

CERONA

LOT 82 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 400.00 sqm.
Lot 4-C-9-A-B Rd Lot Brgy Paraolingan
Minimum Bid Price 102,000.00

GERONA

LOT 83 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 6,218.00 sqm.
Lot 1090-J, Barangay Singat
Minimum Bid Price 311,000.00

LA PAZ

LOT 84 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 800.00 sqm.
Floor Area 119.00 sqm.
Lot 17 Blk 21 Capilley Ave. Capilley St Brgy Comillas
Minimum Bid Price 381,000.00

LOT 85 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 800.00 sqm.
Lot 7, Blk 22 Brgy Comillas
Minimum Bid Price . 190,000.00

LOT 86 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 4,584 sqm.
Lots 1626-E-3 & 4 Brgy Guevarra
Minimum Bid Price 104,000.00

MATATAIB

LOT 87 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 250.00 sqm.
Floor Area 147.00 sqm.
Lot1-D-2 Sunflower, Sunflower St., Sitio Monga II
Minimum Bid Price 682,000.00

MONCADA

LOT 88 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 456.00 sqm.
Lot 917-B. Luna St., Purok 3, Camposanto 1, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price . 137,000.00

LOT 89 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 845.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Prov Rd Brgy Camangaan
Minimum Bid Price 216,000.00

PANIQUI

LOT 90 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 729 sqm.
Floor Area 378.00 sqm.
Lot 4125-A-11-D-4 &Lot 4125-A-11-D-4-B Subd Rd Brgy. Salumague
Minimum Bid Price ; 623,000.00

LOT 91 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 352.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 86.00 sqm.
Lot 2313-G Brgy Rd Brgy Nipaco
Minimum Bid Price : 218,000.00

LOT 92 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 7,983.00 sqm.
Lot 2013, Brgy Dapdap
Minimum Bid Price 304,000.00

LOT 93 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 1,242.00 sqm.
Lot 2340 Brgy Rd Brgy Nipaco
Minimum Bid Price 121,000.00

SAN ISIDRO

LOT 94 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 317.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 7 Rd Lot 4.Rd Lot 7 Country Hills Subd ,Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 108,000.00

LOT 95 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 708 sqm.
Lots 1& 16 Blk 2 Subd Rd Rd Lot 1&4 Country Hills Subd Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 241,000.00

LOT 96 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 296.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 6 Rd Lot 8 Country Hills Subd.,
Minimum Bid Price : 89,000.00

LOT 97 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk6 Rd Lot 8. Country Hills Subd ,Phase II
Minimum Bid Price : 90,000.00

LOT 98 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk6 Rd Lot 8 Country Hills Subd ,Phase II
Minimum Bid Price : 90,000.00

LOT 99 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 6 Country Hills Subd ,Phase II
Minimum Bid Price : 90,000.00

LOT 100 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 300.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 6 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd.,
Minimum Bid Price 90,000.00

LOT 101 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 6 Rd Lot 8 Country Hills Subd.,Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 90,000.00

LOT 102 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 300.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 7 Rd Lot 8 Country Hills Subd., Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 90,000.00

LOT 103 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 6 Rd Lot 8 Country Hills Subd. Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 90,000.00

LOT 104 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 324.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 11 Country Hills Subd.,Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 111,000.00

LOT 105 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 356.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 11 Country Hills Subd., Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 107,000.00

LOT 106 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk11 Rd Lot 8 Country Hills Subd. Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 90,000.00

LOT 107 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 467.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 11 Country Hills Subd.,Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 159,000.00

LOT 108 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 11 Rd Lot 8 Country Hills Subd. Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 90,000.00

SAN JOSE

LOT 109 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area 1,606.00 sqm.
Lot 19-A, Brgy Lawacamulag
Minimum Bid Price 167,000.00

LOT 110 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 4,227.00 sqm.
Lot D, Villa Aglipay
Minimum Bid Price 214,000.00

LOT 111 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 21,163.00 sqm.
Lot 8410, Sitio Caligan. Villa Aglipay.
Minimum Bid Price 371,000.00

SAN VICENTE

LOT 112 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 1,062.00 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 1 Rd Lot San Vicente Hills Subd
Minimum Bid Price 1,593,000.00

STA. IGNACIA

LOT 113 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 4,685 sqm.
Floor Area. 745.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A-2.1-A-3.1-A-4,1-A-5-B,1068-A Romulo Highway, Pob East.
Minimum Bid Price : 3,420,000.00

LOT 114 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 978.00 sqm.
Floor Area 45.00 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 2 Romulo Highway. Brgy Vargas
Minimum Bid Price 462,000.00

LOT 115 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,821.00 sqm.
Lot 4643 Brgy Rd Brgy Sta Ines East
Minimum Bid Price 125,000.00

TARLAC

LOT 116 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,603.00 sqm.
Floor Area 107.00 sqm.
Lot 4006-C, Brgy. Rd., Brgy Sapang Maragul
Minimum Bid Price 1,700,000.00

LOT 117 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area 63.00 sqm.
Lot 5-A-1Brgy Rd Brgy. Sto. Nino
Minimum Bid Price 140,000.00

LOT 118 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 5,852 sqm.
Lot 2576-B-2-A,2576-B-2-C & 2576-B-2-B Mc Arthur Highway, Along Macarthur Highway Brgy Sapang Calsada
Minimum Bid Price 5,388,000.00

LOT 119 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 500.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 4, St. James Subd., Brgy. Tibag
Minimum Bid Price 20,000.00

LOT 120 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 500.00 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 17. St. James Subd., Brgy Tibag
Minimum Bid Price 20,000.00

LOT 121 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 500.00 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 17, St. James Subd., Brgy Tibag
Minimum Bid Price : 20,000.00

LOT 122 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 500.00 sqm.
Lot 7, Blk 17, St. James Subd Brgy. Tibag
Minimum Bid Price : 20,000.00

LOT 123 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 1,634.00 sqm.
Lot 1525-I, Along Romulo Highway, Brgy. Carangian
Minimum Bid Price : 1,103,000.00

LOT 124 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 332 sqm.
Alley (Lot 1631-B-7) Brgy San Jose, Coepcion
Minimum Bid Price : 102,000.00

LOT 125 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,426.00 sqm.
Lot 4033 Medina St. Brgy Rd. Medina St Corner Brgy. Rd. Sapang Maragul
Minimum Bid Price : 325,000.00

LOT 126 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,086.00 sqm.
Lot 3970-B Tanedo St. Brgy Rd Brgy Sapang Maragul
Minimum Bid Price : 533,000.00

LOT 127 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,602.00 sqm.
Gatang Brgy Sapang Maragul
Minimum Bid Price : 286,000.00

LOT 128 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,557 sqm.
Lots 12 & 13 Blk 4 Rd. Lot 4 Salvador Subd.,Brgy Aguso
Minimum Bid Price : 331,000.00

LOT 129 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 1,037 sqm.
Lot 30 Blk 7 & Lot4 Blk 6 Rd Lot 3 & 4 Salvador Subd Brgy. Aguso
Minimum Bid Price : 221,000.00

LOT 130 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 516.00 sqm.
Lot2 Blk 6 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd.,Brgy Aguso
Minimum Bid Price : 110,000.00

LOT 131 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 529.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 6 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd.,
Minimum Bid Price : 113,000.00

LOT 132 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 734 sqm.
Lots 25 & 26 Blk 5 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd.,Brgy Aguso
Minimum Bid Price : 157,000.00

LOT 133 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 468.00 sqm.
Lot 22 Blk 7 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd., Brgy Aguso
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 134 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 10,000.00 sqm.
Lot 2-B Brgy Culipat
Minimum Bid Price : 650,000.00

LOT 135 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 454.00 sqm.
Lot 1/Blk 5 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd.,Brgy Aguso
Minimum Bid Price : 97,000.00

LOT 136 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 367.00 sqm.
Lot 2 /Blk 5 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd.,Brgy. Aguso.
Minimum Bid Price : 78,000.00

LOT 137 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 367.00 sqm.
Lot 3 / Blk 5 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd., Brgy Aguso
Minimum Bid Price : 78,000.00

LOT 138 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 367.00 sqm.
Lot 4/ Blk 5 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd., Brgy Aguso
Minimum Bid Price : 78,000.00

LOT 139 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 367.00 sqm.
Lot 5/ Blk5 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd.,Brgy. Aguso
Minimum Bid Price : 78,000.00

LOT 140 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 367.00 sqm.
Lot 6/ Blk 5 Rd Lot 4 Salvador Subd., Brgy Aguso
Minimum Bid Price : 78,000.00

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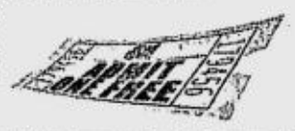

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
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4 SNAKEs ON A PLANE
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8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 JUPIT
10 STAY ALIVE
11 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
12 LITTLE MAN

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1 MIAMI VICE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THCLICK
5 LITTLE MAN
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
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9 SNAKES ON A PLANE
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 YOU ARE THE ONE
12 CLICK

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 JUPIT
2 CLICK
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 LITTLE MAN
5 SUKOB
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 MORTUARY
12 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 LITTLE MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 CLICK
7 STAY ALIVE
8 JUPIT
9 SUKOB
10 MORTUARY

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 CLICK
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 LITTLE MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6868
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 STAY ALIVE
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 LITTLE MAN
8 CLICK
9 JUPIT

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 JUPIT
2 STAY ALIVE
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 LITTLE MAN
9 SUKOB
10 MORTUARY
11 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 MORTUARY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 LITTLE MAN
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
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3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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5 SNAKES A ON PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 SUKOB
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1 LITTLE MAN
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

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2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 UNITED 93
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1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 STORMBREAKER
4 CLICK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 MIAMI VICE
2 MORTUARY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 LITTLE MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 LITTLE MAN
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 MORTUARY
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 CLICK
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 KUBRADOR
2 RESERVED
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 LITTLE MAN
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 STORMBREAKER
2 JUPIT
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MORTUARY
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 CLICK • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

4 STAY ALIVE
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45

5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 VICTORY

7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 RESERVED

9 THE BIG WHITE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40

10 LITTLE MAN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 YOU ARE THE MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 STAY ALIVE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 SNAKE SON A PLANE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

5 LITTLE MAN
12:10 2:10 4:05 6:05 8:00 9:50

6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 CLICK
12:10 2:10 4:05 6:05 8:05 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 TAMARA
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 SUKOB
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

3 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:10

4 LITTLE MAN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

5 CLICK
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

8 SNAKES ON A PLANE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STAY ALIVE

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2 JUST MY LUCK
3 WOLF CREEK
4 LITTLE MAN

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK

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1 LITTLE MAN
2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 MORTUARY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

1 AMERICAN DREAMZ
2 TAMARA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

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1 MORTUARY
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 FIERCE PEOPLE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 MORTUARY
6 MIAMI VICE

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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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In Rome for 'Rome'

From page G2

version of the Forum."

Of course, someone brought up his full frontal nudity and the sex scenes in the series. "In ancient Rome, they had a very different moral code," he explained. "They would have people in the room while they were making love. The slaves were just like furniture. A slave would be there to give you something, if you wanted water at the end of it (sex). I had one scene last year where there was full frontal nudity. I was being exfoliated by a slave while having a conversation with McKidd's character. It had nothing to do with sex. It just said a great deal about my character, Mark Antony, and about that time."

Socks for his ...

With a smile, he revealed the surprise effect of his full frontal, the morning after that episode was aired. "It was an amusing experience," he shared. "I took my boy to school the following morning and all those ladies in the playground who have been terribly nice to me were suddenly unable to look me in the eye at all."

Ray Stevenson, literally a towering presence at 6'4", also had an amusing tale about his nude sex scene with Lindsey Marshal. Before he did the scene, Ray walked into his dressing room and found wind socks that he was supposed to wear on his privates and nothing else. The actor recalled saying, "Oh, this is ridiculous. I put one on. I thought, this is never going to work. So I went out of my dressing room and walked up to Lindsey. I said to her, 'I've got to show you this before we go on.' When she finally picked herself up from laughing so much, she said, 'Please don't wear that!'"

We didn't see wind socks when we toured the wardrobe and prop departments. Instead, we saw hundreds and hundreds of costumes on hangers at a hangar-like room presided over by Oscar-nominated costume designer **April Ferry**. Recovering from a fall, April had created a fashionable sling for her injured arm out of a black scarf.

April had the daunting task of supervising the creation of 4,000 pieces of wardrobe for the first season. Beaming, she cited James from among the hundreds she has to dress up: "He is an absolute peacock." What did men wear under those togas in those days? "Perizona," she replied, which she likened to diapers.

"The sandals are more comfortable this season," April cheerily announced. Well, at least for Ray and Kevin who wanted something more comfy. Her se-

IN ROME/ G5

POLLY Walker has many lovers as Atia of the Julii.

In Rome for 'Rome'

From page G4

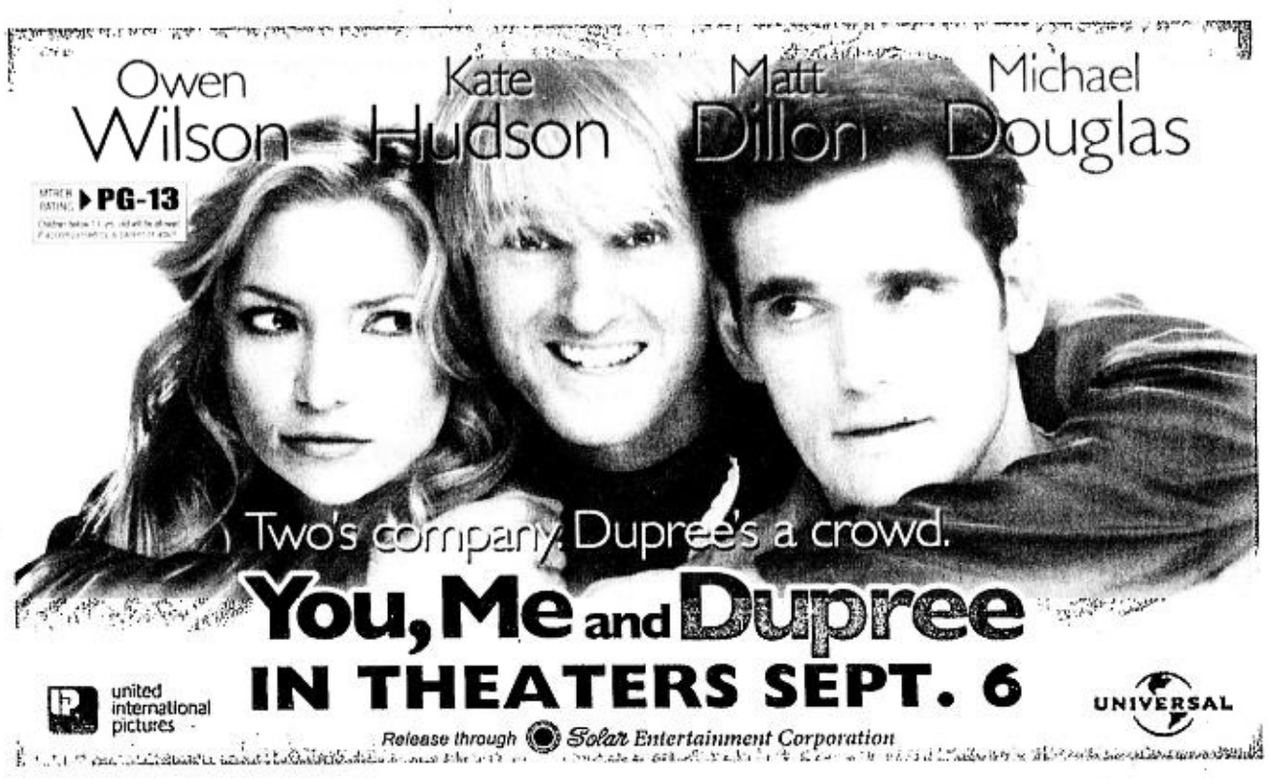
cret? Birkenstock soles.

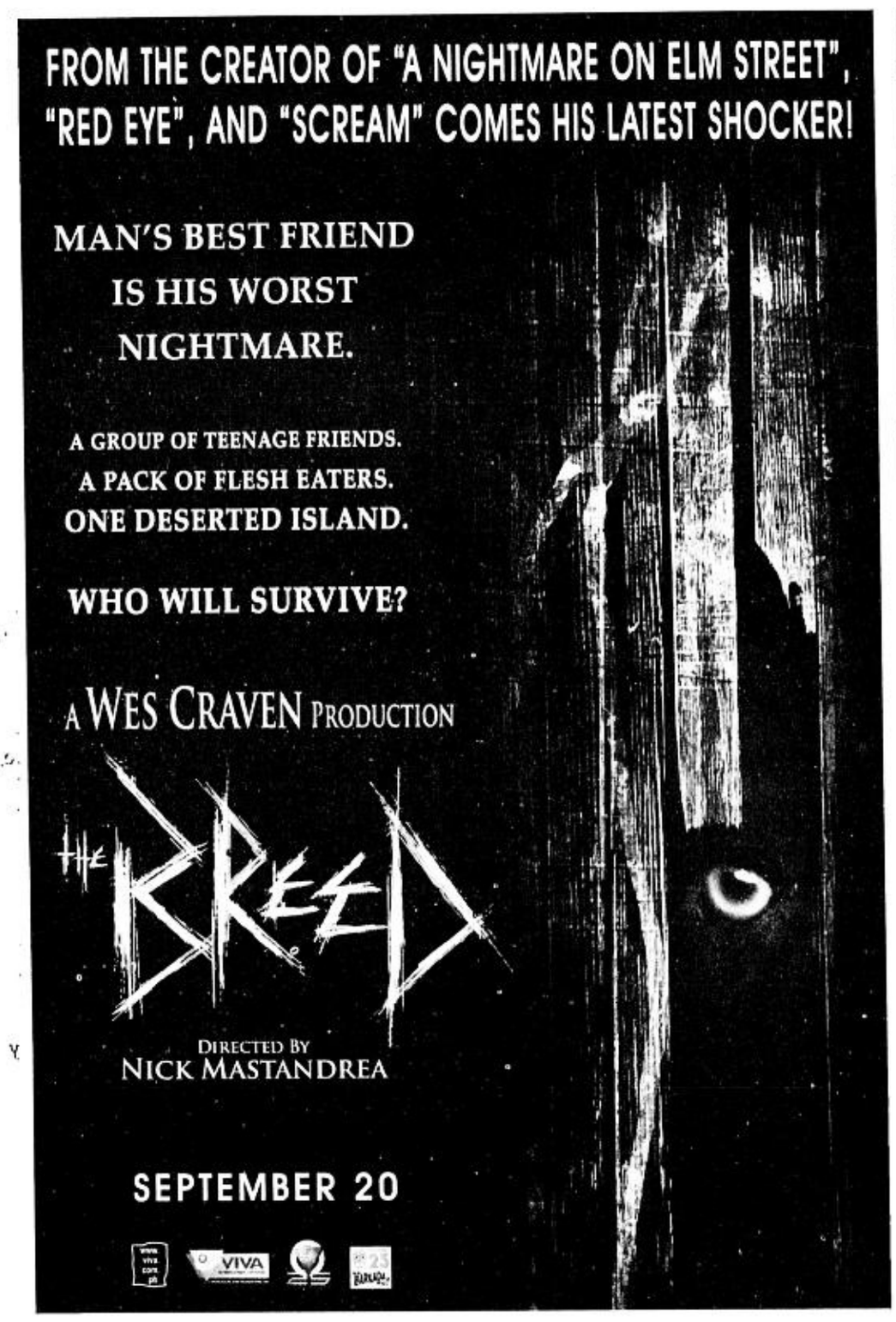
Emmy Awards

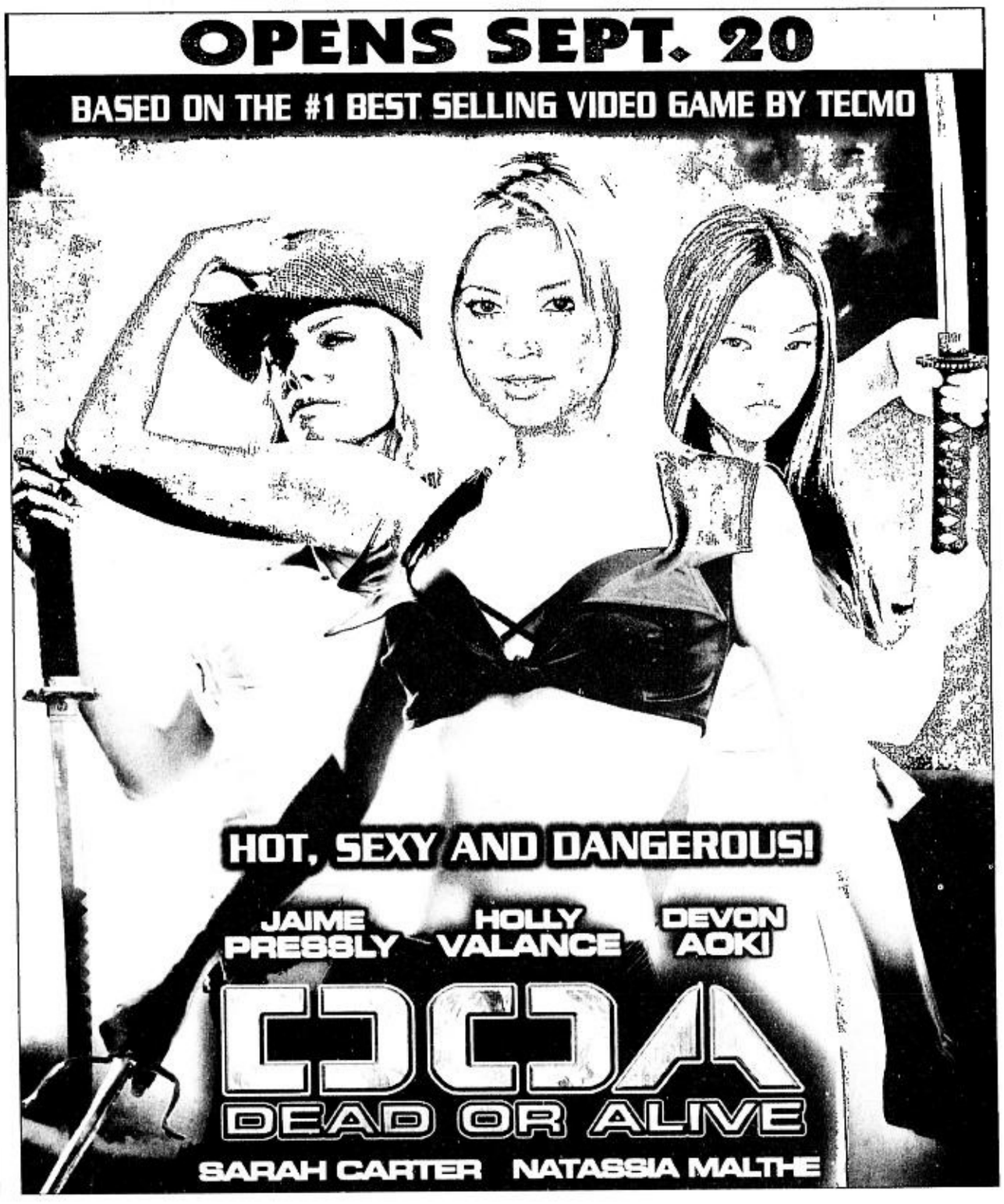
There was an air of nostalgia in the room where **Augusto** and **Giampaolo Grassi** created the leather costumes for the principal actors. Their father fashioned the body armor for "Cleopatra" in 1963, which was filmed right here. That epic's stars, **Elizabeth Taylor** and Richard Burton, fell in love on this lot as they made the movie.

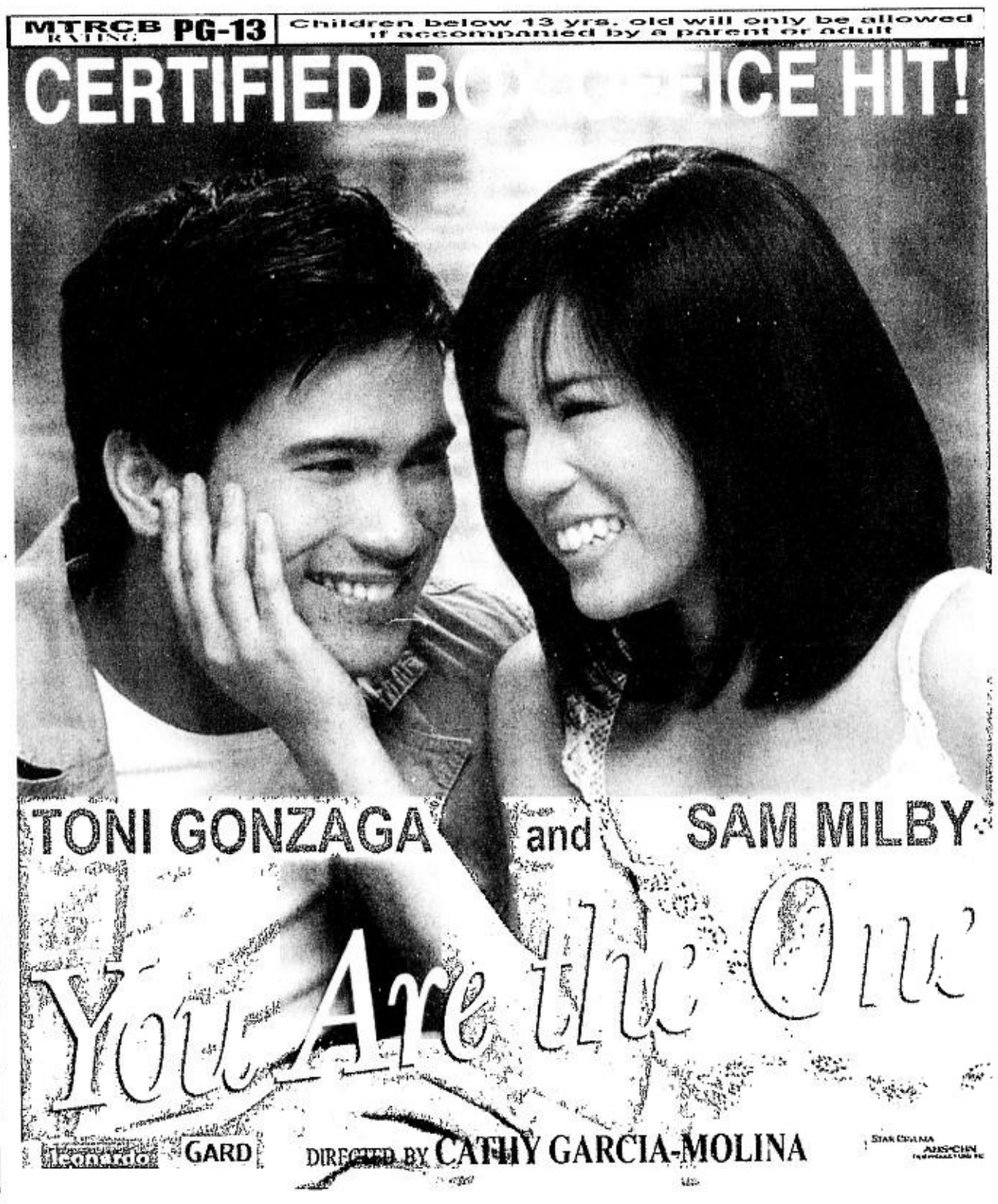
Several weeks after she regaled us with her stories, April, along with Augusto, won the Emmy Award for Best Outstanding Costumes for a Series. The meticulous attention to detail paid off—"Rome" also romped off with the awards for Best Hairstyling for a Series, Best Art Direction for a Single-Camera Series and Best Special Visual Effects for a Miniseries,

IN ROME/ G6









In Rome for 'Rome'

From page G5

Movie or a Special.

"Rome's" second season begins in January 2007. We note with sadness that there won't be a third season although that may still change. But HBO's recent release of an impressive six-disc DVD set of the first season should delight long-time fans and win new ones. Thanks to its production values, "Rome" comes across as a very good extended movie, not a television series.

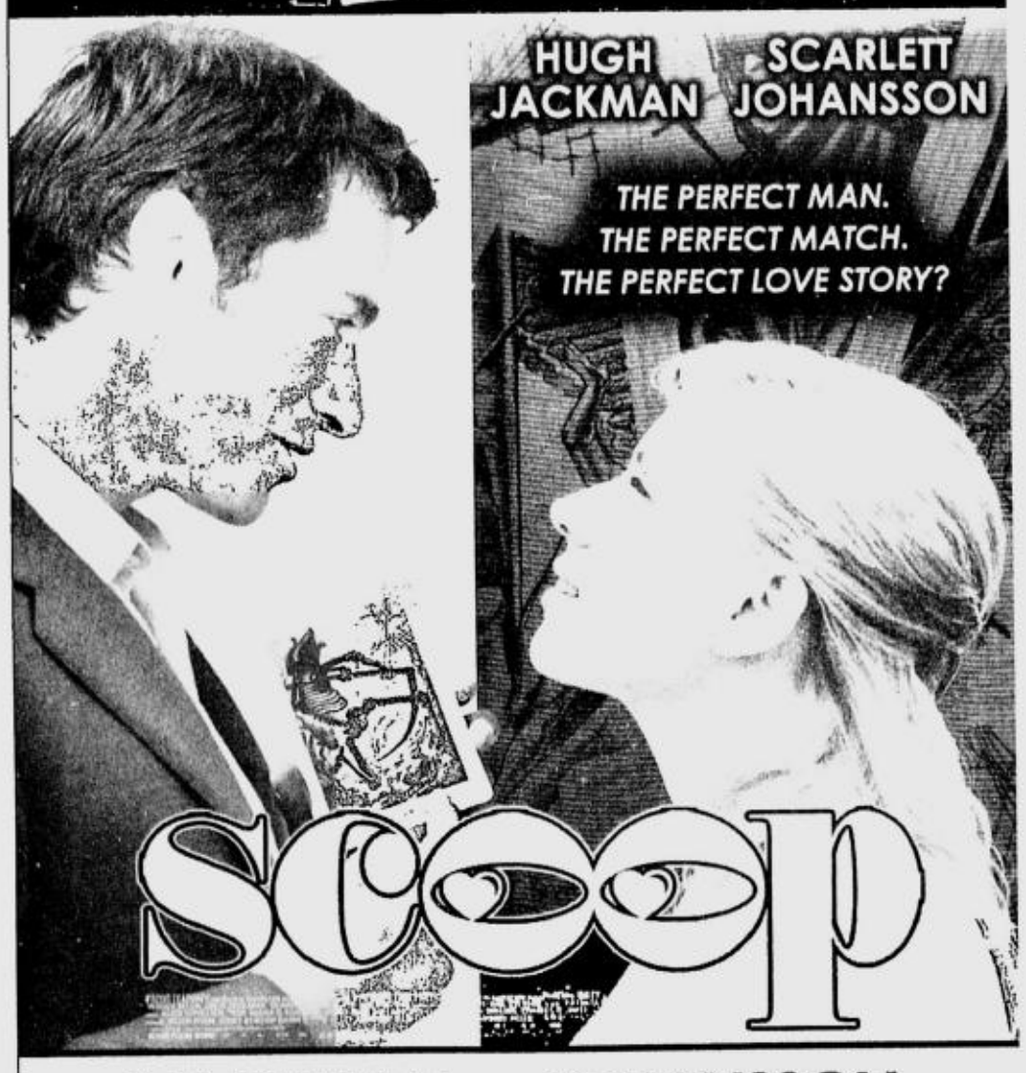
E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

OPENS SEPTEMBER 13

AMERICA'S HOTTEST AND SEXIEST STARS TOGETHER IN A DANGEROUSLY ROMANTIC COMEDY

HUGH JACKMAN SCARLETT JOHANSSON

THE PERFECT MAN. THE PERFECT MATCH. THE PERFECT LOVE STORY?



"JACKMAN AND JOHANSSON, HANDLE THE SEXUAL HIJINKS IN STYLE!"
Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"JACKMAN IS IN FULL CARY GRANT MODE. JOHANSSON IS LUMINOUS!"
Bob Ross, TAMPA TRIBUNE

"A CHARMING, ROMANTIC COMEDY THRILLER"
Christy Karras, SALT LAKE CITY TRIBUNE

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Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOU SMILING!"
Rex Reed, NEW YORK OBSERVER

"THERE ARE PLENTY OF OLD-SCHOOL MURDER-MYSTERY MOMENTS TO KEEP YOU GUESSING."
Lisa Kennedy, DENVER POST

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Iza CALZADO
Mark HERRAS
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Registration starts at 10:00AM, SM Mall of Asia Entertainment Hall.
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2006

H1

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Baguio Teachers Camp, Department of Education, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Procurement of Security Services
Location : Baguio Teachers Camp Compound
Contract Duration : One (1) year
Approved Budget : P46.90/hour

Prospective bidders must have experience in undertaking a similar project in 2003 to present. The Eligibility Check/Screening and the Preliminary Examination of Bids will use the nondiscretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid will be conducted.

Particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security,Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contracts are governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 4 - 17, 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2. Pre-bid Conference	September 18, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
3. Submission of Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility	September 26 until 12:00 noon.

Bid documents are available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a nonrefundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to the Baguio Teachers Camp Cashier.

The Baguio Teachers Camp assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid.

For more details, please call Lovenia R. Gorospe, Assistant Superintendent, Bids and Awards Committee Chairman with tel. nos. 442-2659, 442-6032 and 442-4417 and cellphone no. 09175072162.

(Sgd.) **JESUS LAZO TABERDO, PhD, CESO III**
Director IV
Officer-in-Charge, Teachers Camp and
Adviser, National Educators Academy of the Philippines

(PDI – Aug. 27 & Sept. 3, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The General Public is hereby informed that **GLOBAL CONNECT MANPOWER RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT INC.** (the "Corporation") is securing a Landbased Recruitment License with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) – Licensing And Regulation Office (LRO).

Relative thereto, the POEA Pre-Employment Service Office (PSO) certified that **REGION DIVERSIFIED (S) PTE, LTD.**, the Principal of the Corporation with office address at No. 30 Toh Guan road, #08-07A, ODC Districentre, Singapore 608840, is a **NEW MARKET.**

Furthermore, that the Board & Officers of the Corporation are as follows:

NAME	POSITION
MARY ANTONETTE L. BOSANO	Chairman / Director
BENJAMIN R. MAYORAL	President / Director
AGNES C. MILAN	Corporate Secretary / Director / Finance & Admin
FERNANDO R. MENDOZA	Director
DOMINGO I. CABRERA	Director

For more information, contact us at:

G/F JAAA Building,
69 Apo St., 1550 Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. : 534-3209
Telefax :534-6329
E-mail add: globalconnect@tri-isys.com

Please be guided accordingly.

GLOBAL CONNECT MANPOWER RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT INC.

Mr. Benjamin R. Mayoral
President

This Notice is in accordance with Sec. 12 Rule II of the 2002 POEA Rules & Regulations.

(PDI--Sept. 3, 2006)

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Don Filemon C. Rodriguez Foundation** is launching the book of **Don Filemon** entitled **"I Believe"** on Monday, Sept. 25, 2006 at 4 pm at Ayala Museum located at Makati Ave., corner Dela Rosa St., Makati City. We are extending invitation to the friends, associates, relatives of FCR and for information contact Eddie or Emy @ 0917-526-4269 and 816-2552.

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

In behalf of Fan Jian Le, holder of Certificate of Copyright Registration and Deposit issued by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, The National Library, Manila, with residence at Skyrise Hotel corner Aguilar Street, Recto, Manila hereby serves notice of the existence and registration of LFT Essential, which was officially registered on July 13, 2006 with Registration No. M 2006-385. LFT Essential is an international brand of lamps and lighting fixtures which has generated acceptance in Asia, particularly in the Philippine market from 2001 continuously up to the present

Any violation of the copyright Registration and Deposit Right granting priority to our client Fan Jian Le, will render the violator/s thereof liable to us for damages, among others.

(Sgd.) P.M. CASTILLO
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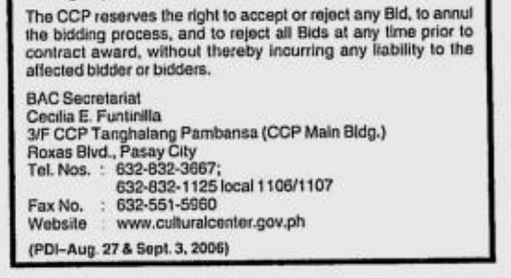

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform you that **CORPORATE VISIONS, INC.** has transferred to its new office address located at **G/F LPL Mansions, 122 L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.**

(PDI–Sept. 3, 2006)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 08-03-2006 MIM

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Branch Bids and Awards Committee (BBAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Project : Two (2) lots Janitorial Services

LOT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET
1	Casino Filipino – Mimosa Required number of Janitors:18 Janitors	Two Million Five Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Ninety Eight & 72/100 (Php 2,557,098.72)
2	Casino Filipino – Laoag Required number of Janitors:12 Janitors	One Million Two Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Nine & 44/100 (Php 1,274,689.44)

Source of Funds : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573 or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, Casino Filipino – Mimosa.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 25, 2006 – September 18, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 5, 2006 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	September 19, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bid	September 19, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

VENUE: Casino Filipino - Mimosa

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Eight & 55/100 Pesos (Php 1,278.558) for Lot 1 and Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 800.00) for Lot 2.*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BBAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the Branch Secretariat Unit, Casino Filipino – Mimosa.

(Sgd) ALFREDO C. GELLA
Chairperson, Joint BBAC Mimosa & Laoag

(PDI – Aug. 27 & Sept. 3, 2006)

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of Contract : Services of a Financial Advisor for the development of the CCP Real Property

The Cultural Center of the Philippines now calls for the submission of Letter of Intents (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Services of a Financial Advisor for the development of the CCP Real Property. Interested bidders must submit their LOIs during the Pre-Bid Conference on September 08, 2006 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on September 19, 2006. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.

The CCPBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted Letter of Intent and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

- Bid Price (50%) – the amount quoted by the bidder which shall cover the total cost of the services to be provided by the Financial Advisor
- Track Record (30%) – the organizational qualifications ad past work experiences of the bidding company
- Qualifications of the Key Staff members (20%) – educational background, company position and work experiences of the key staff members to be assigned to the project

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of RA 9184. In accordance with IRR-A of RA 9184, only bids from short listed bidders will be opened. The process of the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

The CCP shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost based evaluation/selection procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) at the address given below starting September 05 from 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. : 632-832-3667;
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. : 632-551-5960
Website : www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(PDI–Aug. 27 & Sept. 3, 2006)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 08-04-2006 LUZ

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all Private Security Agencies in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project: Two (2) lots Private Security Agency (PSA) Services for Casino Filipino Luzon Branches

LOT	LOCATION / BRANCH	NO. OF GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET
1	Casino Filipino - Angeles	45 (SG-36 / LG-9)	Thirteen Million One Hundred Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred Thirteen & 08/100 (Php 13,196,413.08)
2	Casino Filipino – Laoag Casino Filipino – Mimosa Casino Filipino – Olongapo	12 (SG-6 / LG-6) 18 (SG-12 / LG-6) 10 (SG-10 / LG-0)	Eleven Million One Hundred Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One & 12/100 (Php 11,110,891.12)

NOTE: Bidders should bid for one (1) lot only.
Contract Duration : Two (2) years
Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573 or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, Casino Filipino – Angeles or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, Casino Filipino – Olongapo.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 31, 2006 – September 29, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 18, 2006 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	October 2, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bid	October 2, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

VENUE: Casino Filipino - Angeles

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Six Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Eight & 20/100 Pesos (Php 6,598.20) for Lot 1 and Five Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Five & 45/100 (Php 5,555.45) for Lot 2.*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BBAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the Branch Secretariat Unit, Casino Filipino – Angeles.

(Sgd) BASIL M. PERNIA
BBAC Chairman, Casino Filipino - Angeles

(PDI – Sept. 3 & 10, 2006)

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3. willing to give a bank guarantee, domestic L/C or a surety bond

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Cell nos: 09178342834 or 09175113644

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

LAST AUGUST 19, 2006, A NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC APPEARED IN THIS NEWSPAPER STATING THAT "ENGR. JUANITO BACARRO AND YURISHITO TAKEDA" ARE REPORTEDLY ENGAGING IN COMMERCIAL/ BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITH CERTAIN SUPPLIERS AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE METRO MANILA. THE SAID PERSONS REPRESENT THEMSELVES AND CONDUCT BUSINESS PURPORTEDLY FOR AND IN BEHALF OF MITSUMI PHILIPPINES INC. AND CEBU MITSUMI INC.

THE UNDERSIGNED CATEGORICALLY DENIES THAT HE IS THE SAME ENGR. JUANITO BACARRO REFERRED TO IN THE SAID NOTICE. THE UNDERSIGNED HAS NEVER TRANSACTED FOR AND IN BEHALF OF MITSUMI PHILIPPINES INC. AND CEBU MITSUMI INC. THE UNDERSIGNED LEGITIMATELY CONDUCTS HIS BUSINESS REPRESENTING THE FOLLOWING:

1. MAKO TEKNOMECANIQUES, INC.
2. FOX DOCUMENTS SOLUTION, INC.
3. OTUS COPY SYSTEMS, INC.
4. HIRAHARA & CO., LTD.

ENGR. JUANITO ALBOVIAS BACARRO
BLK 8 LOT 52 VERAVILLE VILLA GRANDE CLASSIC
Y BARRIOS ST., TALON II B.F. RESORT VILLAGE
LAS PIÑAS CITY

(PDI – Sept. 3. 2006)

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"ON FIRM GROUNDS, MOVING FORWARD"

INVITATION TO APPLY TO BID

The Baguio Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites accredited bidders to apply to bid for the procurement of 10,000 pieces 1/2" Ø water meters to be used for the expansion project of the Baguio Water District.

The Approved Budget Cost is two thousand pesos (Php2,000.00) per piece.

Prospective bidders must already be accredited with the Baguio Water District.

All particulars relative to Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents to accredited suppliers	September 11-13, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	13 September 2006
3. Submission of bids	25 September 2006

Bid Documents will be available to accredited bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) to the BWD Cashier.

The Baguio Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **Atty. MA. LUISA C. TENEDERO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 3 & 10, 2006)

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Uncovering the Breakthrough Ideas that Broke Records

September 29, 2006, 8:30am - 5:30pm , Club Filipino

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For details: please contact PSN Secretariat : Myka or Kytin at 807-5507 / 809-1467 / 09285000567 or email to glibscsm@gmail.com

WCT Academe reveals successful fashion statements

THE WILMA CRUZ Tapalla Academe of Speech and Personality, in partnership with Trifocal Media Solutions, recently presented "Fashion Therapy", a half day seminar workshop that featured techniques in getting that fabulous look and reputation you've always wanted. Expert Image and Etiquette Strategist Ms. Valerie Cruz Tapalla facilitated the event.

Fashion Therapy was held last Aug. 27 at the Astoria Plaza in Ortigas, where numerous participants were treated to a fun day of learning and practice what they've learned by visiting the booths from Ever Bilena Cosmetics, Fitness First, Raven's Makeover on the Go and FJP Music Studio.

To learn more about the program and other related workshops, contact WCT Academe at 7234118, 7227955 or 726-8768.

TRANSCO INKS P187 M SUB-TRANSMISSION ASSETS

National Transmission Corporation (Transco) recently signed P187 million sub-transmission asset sale contracts with three Luzon electric cooperatives as part of government's thrust to implement power sector reforms. The divestment deals were made with Peninsula Electric Cooperative, La Union Electric Cooperative and Camarines Sur 2 Electric Cooperative. Transco President Alan T. Ortiz (seated, 2nd from left) called on other qualified electric cooperatives to acquire Transco's sub-transmission lines so that the benefits of electricity industry reforms will reach Filipinos all over the country. Shown from left are Penelco Board President Rafael Pizarro, Alan Ortiz, Casureco 2 President Ramon Borja, Luelco General Manager Ramon Posadas and (back from left) Controller's Dept Manager Leonor Quintia, Casureco General Manager Rodelo Pasumbal, Casureco representative Alden Bonot, Luelco Board President Roland Bagot and Penelco General Manager Loreto Marcelino.

Wings of song

SINAG SERIES 2006-2007 IN COOPERATION with Music Theater Foundation, Philippines presents "On Wings of Song" featuring Marvin Gayramon with guest artists Ana Feleo and Lena Mckenzie, Sept. 9, at 8 p.m.,at the Sinag Arts Studio.

Marvin Gayramon a young classically trained singer won 1st place in the National Music Competition for young artist (NAMCYA) collegiate level, solo voice category. Studying at the University of the Philippines College of Music as a Fides Cuyugan Asensio scholar, he was accepted at the prestigious Pacific Music Festival in the Barougue Vocal Program, in Sapporo, Japan as Academy member coached by internationally recognized style and vocal teachers.Marvin was the Philippine representative at the 9th Rosa Ponselle competition for Vocal Arts in New York City and a semi finalist at the Jeunesse Montreal International Competition for Voice(Canada). Marvin's greatest talent as a performance singer is his versatility which has now earned for him a luminary role in the newly opened Disneyland Hongkong playing the major role in the character of Quasimodo in the "Hunchback of Notredame",bit roles in Mulan, Lilo & Stitch, Tarzan and many others.

It is an evening of neo ethnic, classical, broadway, pop and opera.

Sinag series 2006-2007 is for the benefit of MTFP and Sinag Arts scholarship program for the musically inclined students and theater production.

For more information and ticket reservations, please call 531-3491 and 0918 944 1313.

SHARING THE LIGHT

Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) President lawyer Emerico de Guzman, Children's Hour Executive Director, Evangeline Mayuga and Solvay T. Nubla, Acting Director of Pathways to Higher Education sign a MOA for "Sharing the Light" a PMAP 50th year anniversary project to rehabilitate 50 public high school libraries all over the country.

RCBC, CEBUANA LHUILLIER REMITTANCE TIE-UP

RCBC, through its remittance arm RCBC TeleMoney, recently forged an alliance with Cebuana Lhuillier to further ease the pick-up of remittances from abroad. With the tie-up, remittances made through RCBC's Tele-Remit or 'cash pick-up anywhere' service may now be picked up from any of Cebuana Lhuillier's 400 branches nationwide. Soon, Tele-Remit pick-ups will be available in all 800 branches of leading pawnshop network Cebuana Lhuillier through its *Pera Padala* service (www.perapadala.com). Present at the MOA signing were (from left): RCBC SVP & TeleMoney Group Head Cynthia Santos, RCBC President and COO Francisco Magsajo Jr., Cebuana Lhuillier President Jean-Henri Lhuillier, and Cebuana Lhuillier *Pera Padala* GM Fernando Bacungan.

Maximizing sales and marketing

ENTREPRENEURS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPpines in cooperation with Department of Trade and Industry, holds a major event dubbed as Maximizing Sales and Marketing — Uncovering the Breakthrough Ideas that Broke Records. Featuring high-caliber speakers - Cecilio Pedro, CEO of Lamoiyan Corporation; Donald Lim, CEO of Yehey.com; Yoly Ong, chairperson of Campaigns and Grey; Jos Ortega, chairman and CEO of BrandLab; and Lizanne Uychaco, SVP & Chief Marketing Officer of PhilAm. This groundbreaking event is slated on Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. at Club Filipino. Topics include: Internet Marketing Magic; Creative Advertising: Ideas and Techniques; What is Your Brand Story?: Powerful Selling Techniques; PLUS the Success Secrets of Lamoiyan Corporation. This is especially designed for executives, businessmen, entrepreneurs and sales and marketing professionals. For inquiries and reservation, please call Peter at 726-5466 726-6740. Sponsors for this big event include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Job Market, Porter and Miles, Canadian and Institute of Entrepreneurship.

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BACOLOD CITY	MIN BID	POTOTAN,ILOILO-Bo.Canallayan	MIN BID
1. H&L / Lot 1464-C-9, Sitio Cibucao Banago. LA 250 FA 80 (nr Banago Elem Schl)	193,000	39. Ricemill w/ Machinery/L5732 B-2 & L 5732-B-3-B/TLA 23,456 TFA 1,625 (nr Sn Juan Elem Schl) (on lease)	15,162,000
2. Lot/L6 B4, Christopher Subd Matab-ang Talisay City/LA 1,000 (across Ayala North Point Subd)	6,210,000	ROXAS CITY – Capiz	MIN BID
3. H&L / Lot 856-L, Bo. Tabao Valladolid, Negros Occ./ LA 325 FA 150 (nr Tabao Elem. Schl)	1,386,000	40. Fishpond / Lot 2768-A Tico, Pan-ay / LA 100,017 (w/ occupant)	1,500,000
BACOLOD CITY	MIN BID	CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	MIN BID
Medel / Woodstock Quest Subd, Tangub (near Bacolod Bel-Air Subdivision)		Puerto Hts. Vill., Puerto (near P. Market)	
4. Cor Lot / L 74 B 13 / LA 72	80,000	41. Lot / L 34 Blk 1 / LA 323	1,236,000
5. Cor Lot / L 85 B 13 / LA 72	80,000	42. Lot / L 25 Blk 2 / LA 343	1,312,000
6. Cor Lot / L 86 B 13 / LA 72	80,000	43. Lot / L 4 Blk 5 / LA 384	1,469,000
7. Lot / Lot 75 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	44. Lot / L 5 Blk 5 / LA 363	1,389,000
8. Lot / Lot 76 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	45. Lot / L 8 Blk 5 / LA 369	1,412,000
9. Lot / Lot 77 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	46. Lot / L 10 Blk 5 / LA 445	1,703,000
10. Lot / Lot 78 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	47. Lot / L 14 Blk 5 / LA 440	1,683,000
11. Lot / Lot 79 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	48. Lot / L 16 Blk 5 / LA 308	1,179,000
12. Lot / Lot 80 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	49. Lot / L 6 Blk 6 / LA 314	1,201,000
13. Lot / Lot 87 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	50. Lot / L 7 Blk 6 / LA 350	1,339,000
14. Lot / Lot 89 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	51. Lot / L 10 Blk 6 / LA-305	1,167,000
15. Lot / Lot 90 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	52. Lot / L 11 Blk 6 / LA-318	1,217,000
16. Lot / Lot 91 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	53. Lot / L 20 Blk 6 / LA-304	1,163,000
17. Lot / Lot 92 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	54. Lot / L 26 Blk 6 / LA 357	1,366,000
18. Lot / Lot 93 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	55. Lot / L 30 Blk 6 / LA 353	1,351,000
19. Lot / Lot 94 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000	56. Lot / L 3 Blk 7 / LA 386	1,477,000
La Herencia Negrense Subd,Mandalagan		57. Lot / L 4 Blk 7 / LA 404	1,546,000
20. Lots / L-2&5 B-8 / TLA-585	644,000	58. Lot / L 5 Blk 7 / LA 375	1,435,000
21. Lot / L-11 B-12 / LA-655	721,000	59. Lot / L 6 Blk 7 / LA 393	1,504,000
22. Lot / L-29 B-27 / LA-435	479,000	60. Lot / L 7 Blk 7 / LA 360	1,377,000
23. Lot / L-31 B-27 / LA-413	455,000	61. Lot / L 8 Blk 7 / LA 383	1,465,000
24. Lot / L-32 B-27 / LA-350	385,000	62. Lot / L 9 Blk 7 / LA 370	1,416,000
25. Cor Lot / L-33 B-27 / LA583	700,000	63. Lot / L 10 Blk 7 / LA 402	1,538,000
26. Cor Lot / L-2 B-31 / LA-601	722,000	64. Lot / L 12 Blk 7 / LA 376	1,439,000
27. Cor Lot / L-13 B-31 / LA689	827,000	65. Corner Lot / L 19 Blk 7 / LA 3	1,563,000
28. Cor Lot / L-28 B-28 / LA675	810,000	**COMMERCIAL**	
CEBU CITY - Banilad	MIN BID	CEBU CITY – Basak Pardo	MIN BID
29. Lot / Lots 20 & 6-D Paseo Annette Ma.Luisa Estate Park Subd. / TLA 1,158	5,211,000	66. * Ind'l Lot w/ W'Houses Lots 4761 & 4768,Cebu South Rd TLA 3,109 / TFA 2,499 (on lease)	21,600,000
DAVAO CITY	MIN BID	67. *Ind'l.Lot w/ W'Hse/ Offc. Lots 4759, Cebu South Road LA 2,688/TFA 2,186 (On lease)	18,400,000
30. H&L / L 8 B 1, Jasper St Ph 3, NHA Kadayawan Hms. Bangkal. LA 130 / FA 36	644,000	68. *Commi Lot w/ 6 sty. Bldg L-7624-C -1-B & 7624 C-3 Colon, Pahina Central Sambag LA 660 70 / TFA 2,797 (on lease)	76,005,000
31. Lot / L 194-A-2-E-5, Brgy. Bayabas, Toril / LA 3,122	2,123,000	MISAMIS ORIENTAL	MIN BID
DAVAO CITY - Ma-a, Talomo	MIN BID	69. *Industrial Lot w/ bldgs,Old Natl Hi-way, Luz Banzon Jasaan / TLA 5,464 / TFA 1,589 (beside Pilipinas Kao)	9,257,000
beside Las Terrazas & Dinaville (Lots)		DAVAO CITY	MIN BID
32. Lot 410 E 1 / LA 12,000	5,520,000	70. * Lot / Lots 1-L-3-B-2, 1-L-3-D-2-C & 1-L-3-D-1-D, P. Bangoy / TLA 1,976 (near Magsaysay Park)	27,230,000
33. Lot 410 E 2 / LA 12,000	5,520,000		
34. Lot 410 E 3 / LA 12,059	5,550,000		
35. Lot 410 E 4 / LA 12,000	5,520,000		
GENERAL SANTOS CITY	MIN BID		
36. Lot/Lot 4608, Ts 217, Camia St, Dadiangas East / LA 602 (nr Dadiangas City High Schl)	3,293,000	71. Lot / Lots 1-L-3-H-3-B-1 & 1-L-3-H-3-B-2, J Luna / TLA 544	4,004,000
37. Agri/Lot-3,Conel/LA67,668	3,440,000	72. Lot / Lot 1-L-3-H-3-B-3, Juan Luna / TLA 271 (w/ occupants)	2,000,000
38. Resl Lot / Lot 1347-B-4,Cabe Subd/ LA 10,038 (w/ Lis Pendens & occupants)	9,544,000	* SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL	

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

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2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ESTEFANIA ALDABA-LIM HAS BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC GERVACIO B. ORTIZ JR. OF MAKATI CITY AS PER DOC. # 123 PAGE # 27, BOOK # XXIII SERIES OF 2006. (PDI Aug. 27, Sept. 3&10, 2006)

STUDY NOW PAY LATER CARE-GIVER COURSE 3026893 09177924104 / 09228148324

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on Sept 12, 2006, Tue. at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively, Apr. 15 - May. 12, 2006 SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer. (PDI - September 03, 2006)

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. AUCTION SALE on SEPT. 12, 2006 Tue.. at 10:30, 11:00, 12:30, and 1:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon. Respectively APR. 15 - MAY. 12, 2006.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer (PDI - September. 03, 2006)

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction
SEPTEMBER 8, 2006
All unredeemed articles from April 1-29, 2006
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
109 Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Extra-Judicial Settlement Notice Is Hereby given that the estate of the late JAIME C. LUBIANO who died intestate on May 13,2002 left a Parcel of Land covered by TCT No. 153032 has been extra judicially settled among heirs Per Doc. No. 23 Page No. 6 Book No. V Series of 2006 Executed before notary public Atty LETECIA S MARIANO DE GUIA of Paranaque City (PDI Sept.3,10&17,06)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the PORFIRIO C. MACATANGAY who Died on JANUARY 7,2006 had settled among his heirs Per Extra-judicial Partition of the estate of PORFIRIO C. MACATANGAY as Notared as Doc No. 430; Page No.86 and Doc No. 431;Page No:87 ;Book No: 109;Series of 2006 of the notarial Registry Book of ATTY. ANGELITO V. MARAÑA of Lipa City(PDI- Aug. 20,27 & Sept.3,2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

6,300 AYALA CORP. SHARES CERTIFICATE NO. 14562 REGISTERED TO YOLANDA L. CHUA WAS DECLARED LOST. IF FOUND PLEASE CONTACT BDO SECURITIES CORP. 667-1571-73 IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED, NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED.

EASYCALL Cert No. 02153 Of DONJONPAUL CALDERON was lost If no contest received new certificate will be issue.(PDI Sept. 3,10&17'06)

Notice is hereby given that ALI Stk Cert Nos. 24155 & 99018071 in the name Frank Gonzalez & Cert #24156 in the name Frank gonzalez &/or Eduardo de Tavera & GLO Stk Cert #11252, 8800001865 in the name Fineas Bebeco Inc. are lost. If no contest received,new stock cert. will be issued. (PDI-Aug.20, 27 & Sept. 3,2006)

Notice is hereby given that Valley Golf Stock Cert. No. 2773 for 1 share issued to Mariano G. Ong was reported lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 20, 27 & Sept. 3, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Aboitiz Equity Ventures stock cert.#100215 w/ 9000 shares issued to ADELAIDA M. UY &/or NAIDA RIVERA was declared lost. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 3, 10 & 17, 2006)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the If: AC Stk Certs are lost Nos. 352915213, 7123609, 7134726,7149066, 7167866, 7183805, 7710105, 7712111, 7721705, 7727495, 7733582, 7736359, 7744540, 7753344, 7762463, 7771065, 7795409,7134716, 7710338, 7712110, 7721705, 7727494, 7733581, 7744541, 7753345,7762464, 7771066, 7795410. All in the name of Fely Dizon. If no contest received, new cert. will be issued. PDI--Sept. 3, 10 & 17, 2006

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Peacefully joined our Creator on September 1st, 2006 at the age of 66.

Her loving husband, **Carlos**; children and children-in-law, **Tito**; **Anthony & Maricar**; **Maribel**; **Abit & Marsha**; **Alfie & Aileen**; **Alfred**; grandchildren **Alex**, **Sabie**, **Carlos**, **Ponsy**, and **Sophia**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sanctuario de San Antonio, Capilla de San Francisco, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Her remains will be laid at the Green Meadows Crypt, Christ the King Church after cremation on September 5th at 2:00 p.m. at Heritage Crematorium.

A funeral mass to be held at Capilla de San Francisco at 12:00 noon will precede the cremation service.

Daily masses at 7:00 p.m. will be held.

CLARITA IGNACIO BATAS

December 17, 1916
Navotas, Metro Manila

August 19, 2006
St. Louis, Missouri

MARRIED: Leon Pangilinan Batas and he preceded her in death August 30, 1976
CHILDREN: Angelita, Ronolfo, Anita, Norlita, Eliadora and Venerando
SONS-IN-LAW: Pepe, Arturo, Danilo and Ruben
DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW: Flor, Lizza
GRANDCHILDREN: Eleonor, Evelyn, Robert, Evangeline, Ruben Jr., Emerson, Ronald, Aileen, Jennifer, Daniel, Aimee, Glen, Brian, Brent, Bradley
GREAT GRANDCHILDREN: Angel Nicole, Robin, Zhyra Rhaine
SISTERS AND BROTHER (All deceased): Salud, Socorro, Pura, Rosita, Pablo
PARENTS: Agapito Ignacio and Rufina Policarpio

Her Remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, 216 Gen. Luna St., Malabon City. Mass will be offered on Sept. 8, at 6:00 pm. Necrological services on Sept. 9, at 7:00 pm at Floresco Funeral Homes.

FUNERAL SERVICES
Sunday, September 10, 2006, 1PM
San Jose Parish Church, Navotas, MM
(Governor Pascual Street)
INTERMENT
Navotas Municipal Cemetery (Governor Pascual Street)

DEATH NOTICE

EMILIANO R. MEDINA

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 29, 2006 at the age of 71.

His body lies in state
No. 2 Gallego St.,
Phase 9F,
Vista Verde
Executive Village,
Cainta, Rizal.

Interment
will be today,
September 3, 2006,
3:00 p.m. at
Loyola, Marikina.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE

TERESITA "TITA" JUGO ARAQUE

(May 11, 1928 – August 30, 2006)
Peacefully joined our Lord on August 30, 2006

Her husband, **Amb. (Ret.) Pablo A. Araque**; children and in-laws, **Maria Regina** and **Jumbo Dulay**, **Maria Teresa Wilcke**, **Paolo**, **Alexander** and **Malu**; grandchildren **Pio**, **Jason**, **Kara** and **Elijah**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Luna Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City).

Interment will be on September 5, 2006, Tuesday, after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

"Come to me, all you weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

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GROUND FLOOR, ATRIUM BLDG.,
MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
TEL. NOS. 811-4370 / 811-4361 /
811-4012 / 892-5578
Contact Persons: Emy, Beng & Tin²

CLASSIFIEDS

RPPI RURAL POWER PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Conduct of Baseline and Impact Survey for the Rural Power Project

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
RURAL POWER PROJECT
CONSULTING SERVICES
GEF Grant No. TF052188

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Energy (DOE), and with grant assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), is implementing the Philippines Rural Power Project (RPP). The DOE has established a Project Management Office (PMO) to lead the implementation of the Project. More information on the Project is available at www.doe.gov.ph/rpp.

The Project includes a Solar PV Component which involve the commercial dissemination of various capacities photovoltaic (PV) systems through private vendors and micro-finance institutions (MFIs) and a Mini-grid Component which is supporting the development of mini-/micro-grid based rural electrification systems specially those using renewable energy technologies such as mini-hydro, micro-hydro and biomass systems.

To help in the monitoring and evaluation of the RPP particularly on the aspects of barrier removal, quality of life and market development impacts, the PMO intends to commission a survey to gather data and information on the solar PV systems and mini-grid beneficiaries under the RPP and comparable rural electrification projects. The survey will provide the quantitative data inputs and statistical baseline for the analysis that will be undertaken by the World Bank and PMO in preparing the Mid-Term Report.

The DOE-PMO invites local consultancy and research institutions for the conduct of baseline and impact survey for the Philippines Rural Power Project. On top the field survey team, the assignment requires the services of key staff, namely: (1) a Team Leader with strong background and experience in quantitative surveys and survey methodologies; (2) a Specialist in statistics and economic analysis; and, (3) an Engineer knowledgeable on solar PV systems and rural electrification. The survey is most likely to be undertaken in the area of Palawan, Negros, Iloilo, Panay Island, Zamboanga, and other areas in Mindanao.

Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by Bank Borrowers*, published in January 1997, revised in September 1997, January 1999, and May 2002. Interested Parties may obtain further information at the contact person provided below during office hours (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.):

Gabriel S. Zamudio
Project Management Office
Telefax: 840-2252
Email Address: gszamudio@gmail.com

The Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below on or before **September 15, 2006** (up to 5:00 p.m.), together with the following documents: (1) company profile; (2) curriculum vitae (CV) of proposed staff; and, (3) track record highlighting on-going and completed projects, including description of similar assignments and work experience.

Mylene C. Capongcol
Project Director, Rural Power Project and
Director, Electric Power Industry Management Bureau
DOE, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telefax: 840-2120
Email Address: mycaps@doe.gov.ph and/or gszamudio@gmail.com

(PDI--Sept. 3, 2006)

MARKET MONITORING
National Food Authority manager Jaime R. Juan (center) inspects the quality of NFA rice at Iba public market in Zambales province. The market inspection is part of the agency's "Palengke Watch" program to ensure the availability of good quality NFA rice at the Bigasan Bayan and accredited retail outlets. NFA rice is being sold at P18 per kilogram at these rice outlets. Juan said that market monitoring discourages retailers from resorting to illegal rice trading practices including hoarding, overpricing and diversion of stocks. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their inquiries through the Text NFA at 0917-6210927

PPO 23rd concert season

THE CULTURAL CENTER of the Philippines (CCP), in cooperation with the Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila, announces the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra's 23rd Concert Season 2006-2007 under the baton of Maestro Eugene Castillo. The concert season opens on Sept. 8 in a concert entitled "Drama Unfolds" with renowned clarinetist Jay Hassler, principal clarinet of The Producers on Broadway, as guest soloist. The programme includes Brahms' Symphony No. 3 in F Major, op. 90, Ravel's music from his ballet, Daphnis et Chloe Suite No. 2 and the jazzy music of Copland's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra.

Four "noble visions" of music treat our audiences on Oct. 13 with Najib Ismail on the keyboard. The concert starts with Hindemith's "Nobilissima Visione" from the ballet St. Francis of Assisi and Mozart's Piano Concerto in A major, K488. Three modern tangos by Argentinian Piazolla's Tres Movimientos Tanguisticos Porteños and Respighi's Pines of Rome end the program.

Noted pianist William Wolfram performs Bernstein's Symphony No. 2 "The Age of Anxiety" on Nov. 10 in PPO III concert series entitled "Variations," which also includes music from Ginastera's Variaciones Concertantes and Elgar's Variations on an Original Theme "Enigma."

A concert entitled "Holiday Treats" will be held on Dec. 8 featuring soprano Camille Lopez-Molina and the UP Concert Chorus under Jai Sabas Aracama, to perform Ryan Cayabyab's Kumukutikutitap, J. Brandy's Mano Po Ninong, Abelardo's Mutya ng Pasig, Adam/Chappeau's O Holy Night and Frank's Panis Angelicus. The program also includes Tchaikovsky's Polonaise from E. Onegin, 3rd Act and Sleeping Beauty, Suite op. 66a, F. Buencamino's Pizzicato Caprice, G. B. Green's Overture on Filipino Folksongs and An-derson's Christmas Festival. Maestro Ruggero Barbieri conducts the PPO.

The New Year opens with " Diamond and Dvorak" on Jan. 5, 2007 with baritone Noel Azcona. David Diamond's Symphony No. 4 and Dvorak's seldom performed, Ten Biblical Songs and Symphony No. 8 in G major, bring the evening to a brilliant conclusion.

The music of contemporary Filipino composers takes centerstage in "Musica Filipina" on Feb. 9 with guest conductor Oscar Yatco, renowned Spanish-based Filipino bassist Lou Ortiz and soprano Irma Potenciano. The concert includes Maria Christine Muyco's Kublo for Large Orchestra and Ilig Duta for Orchestra, Eugene Castillo's Lullaby for String, Orchestra and Voice, Manuel Maramba's Pugad Lawin, Angel Pena's 3rd Concerto for Double Bass and Orchestra and Ryan Cayabyab's La Revolucion Filipina Suite.

The most provocative concert of the season brings together a mother and son, with internationally-acclaimed pianist Cecile Licad and her son, Ottavio Licad-Meneses rendering Poulenc's Concerto for Two Pianos in PPO VII concert entitled "The Next Generation" on March 16. Adams' Short Ride in a Fast Machine, Beethoven's Concerto No. 2 in B flat major, op. 19 and Bartok's Deux Images, op. 10, complete the concert night.

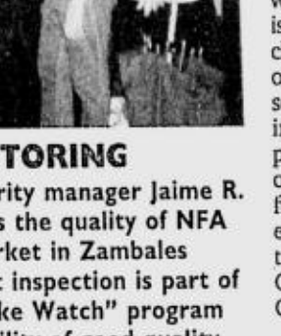
The world renowned Philippine Madrigal Singers close the PPO concert series on April 13, with Bruckner's two greatest works—Symphony No. 9 and Te Deum.

All concerts will be staged at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater) at 8:00 p.m. Ticket prices: P350/500/700/900, with discounts available to students, senior citizens and groups. Subscription packages are also available for eight (8) shows or four (4) shows.

The PPO's 23rd Concert Season 2006-2007 is presented by CCP in cooperation with PETRON Corporation, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Traders Hotel and DZFE 98.7 the Masters' Touch, the official PPO concert station.

For inquiries and subscriptions, call Lilia Casasola Januare at the CCP Marketing Department (832-1125 loc. 1806) or the CCP Box Office (832-3704), Ticketworld at National Bookstore and Tower Records (891-9999) or visit www.culturalcenter.gov.ph.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that **LOURDES "YOYEN" PROTACIO-DE JESUS** (whose picture appears above) is **WANTED BY THE AUTHORITIES** for numerous counts of **QUALIFIED THEFT** and **COMPLEX CRIME FOR QUALIFIED THEFT THRU FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS**.

The Regional Trial Court of Makati, Branch 56 have issued warrants for her arrest.

A reward will be given for any information that will lead to her capture. Those who have information regarding her whereabouts may contact Ligon Solis Corpus Mejia Law Firm at 8940601, 8945737 and 8175672.

(PDI–August 20, 27 & September 3, 2006)

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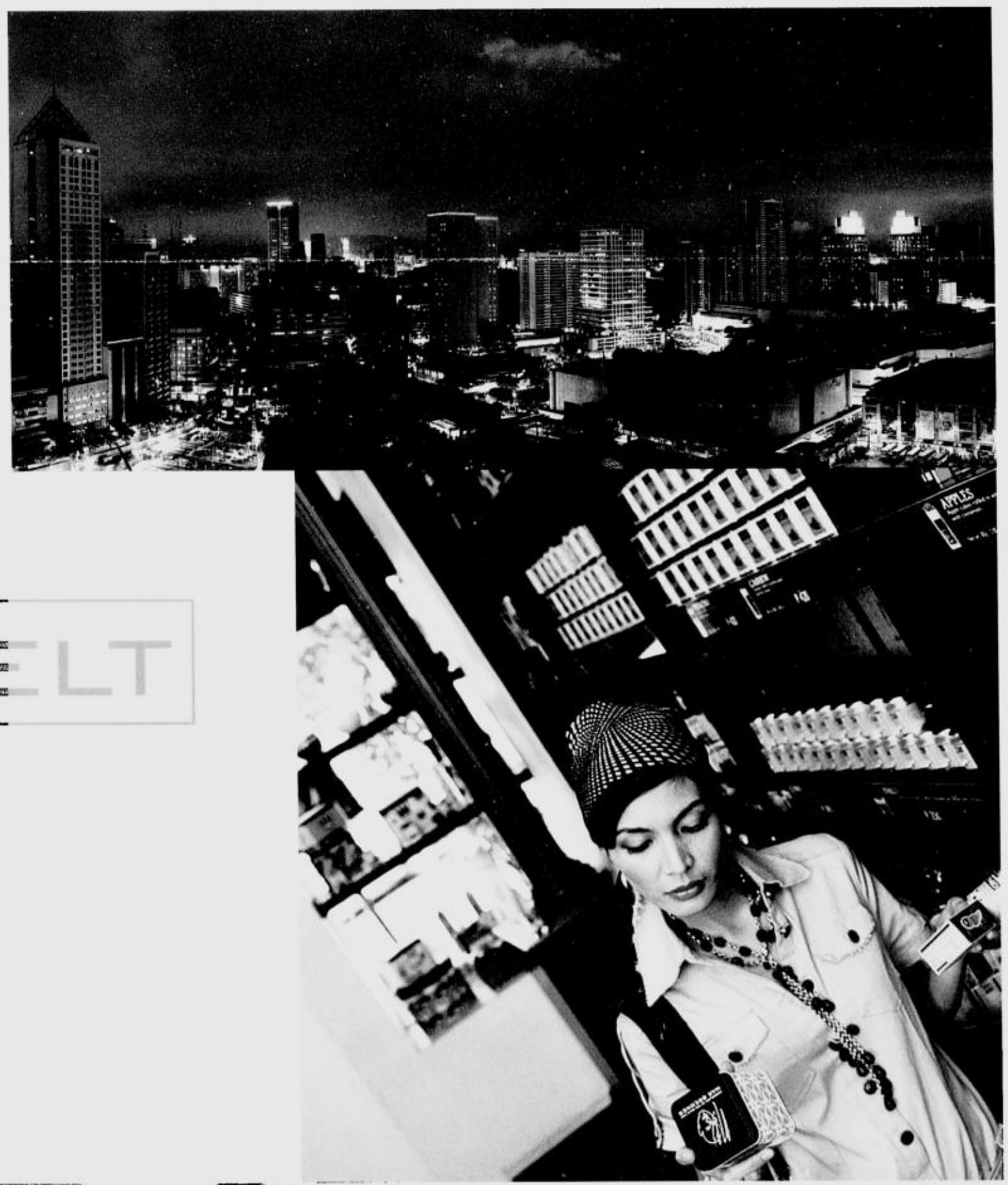

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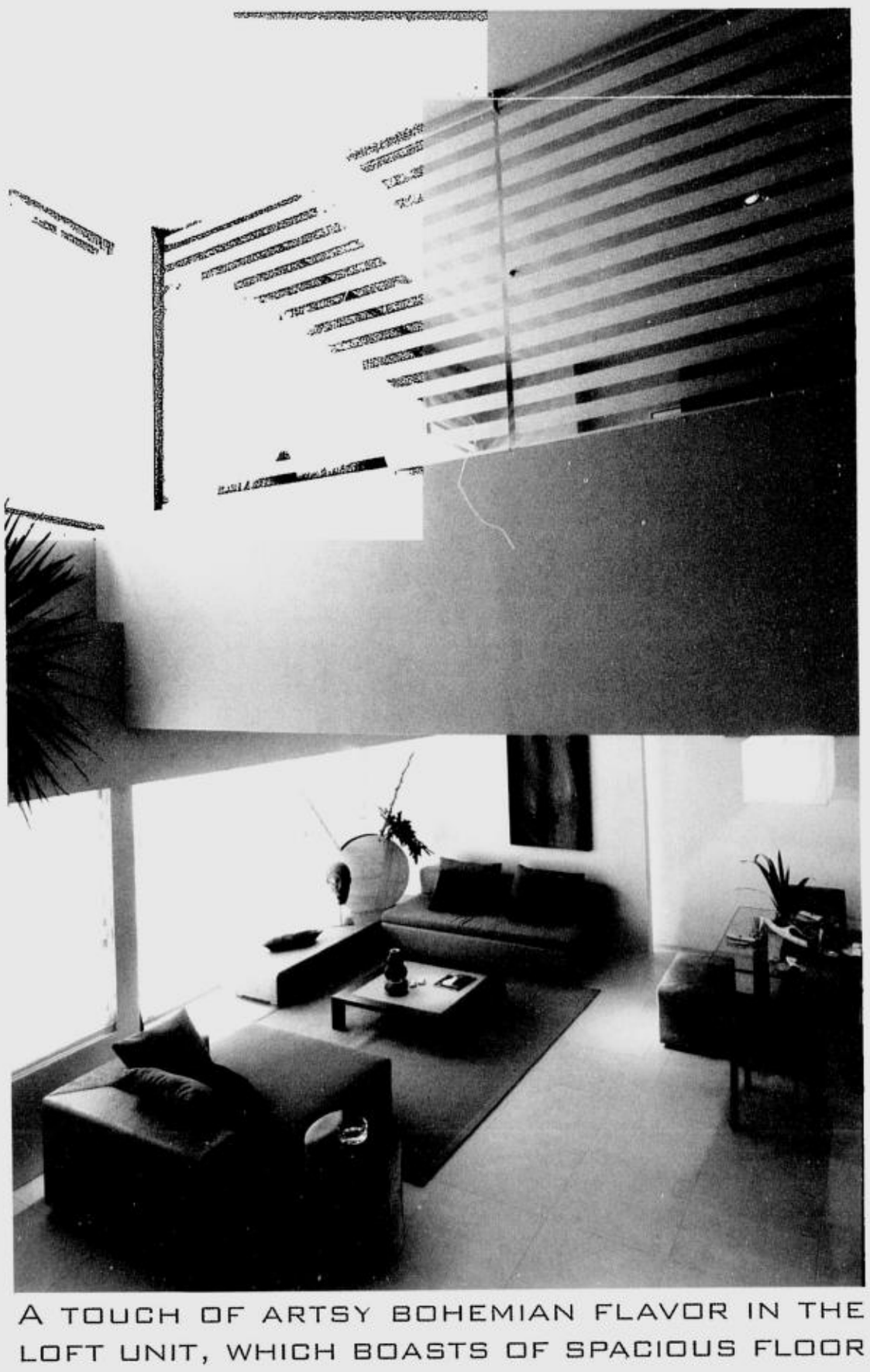

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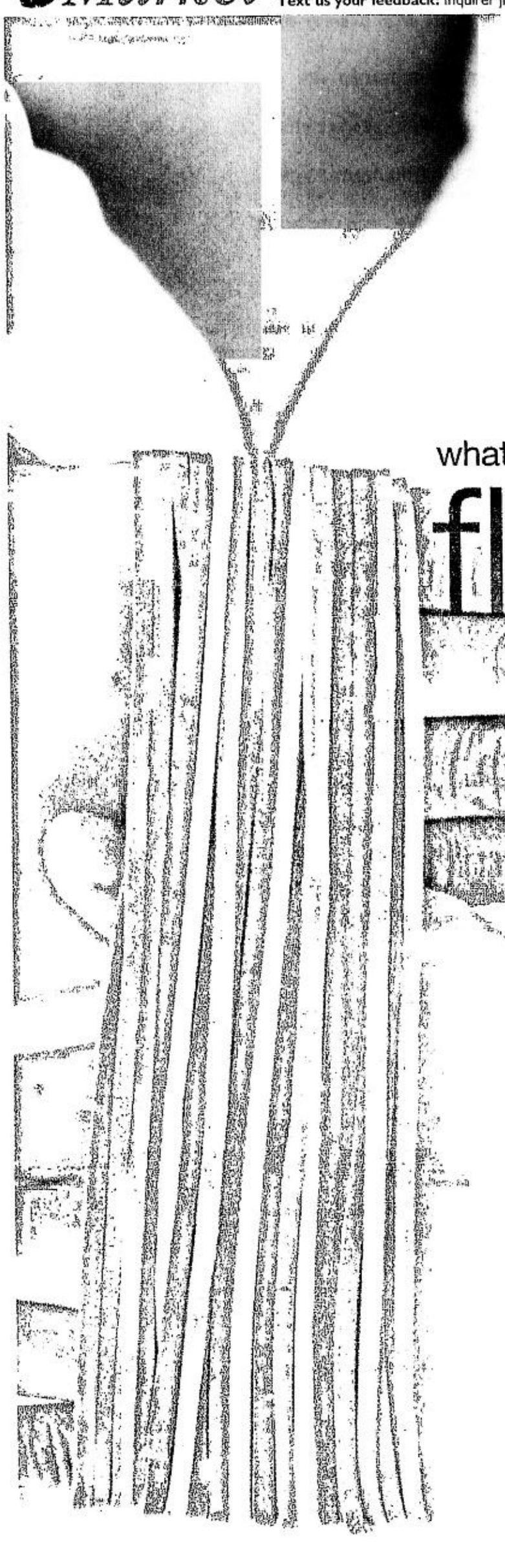

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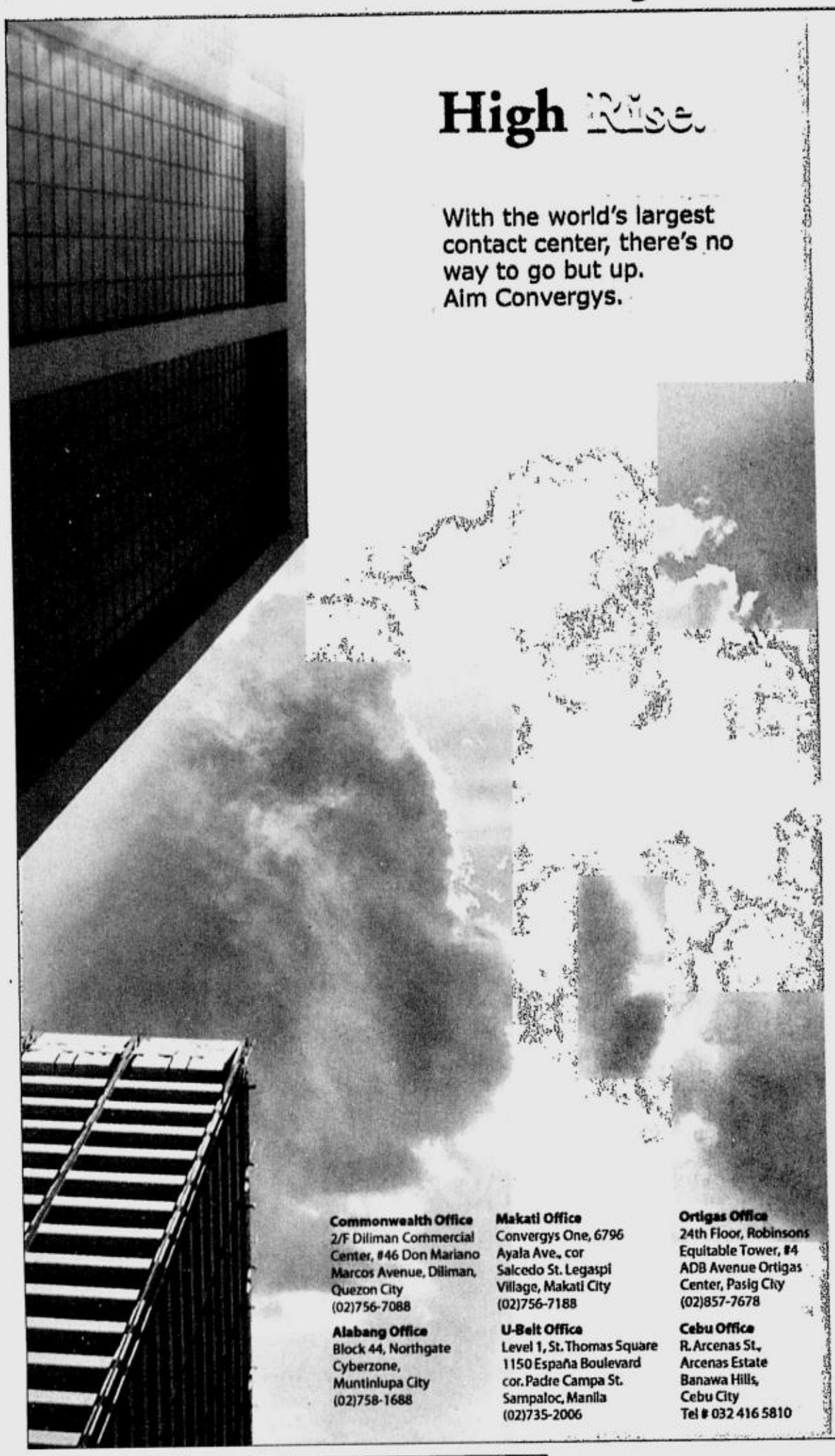

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ECAP is a United Stated Agency for International Development's (USAID) multi-year initiative scheduled to operate through September 2008, whose Clean Air Component is aimed principally of improving air quality through vehicle emissions reduction in Metro Manila, Baguio, Cebu and, Davao.

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We are now hiring for our new site in Eastwood, Quezon City

To Apply:
Interested candidates should send their resumes (indicating the proper code) to **recruitment_mnl@dell.com.**

You may also visit our Recruitment Center at 27/F, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The Dell Contact Center is located at the newly opened SM Mall of Asia at 2/F North Parking Building, SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City, Metro Manila, 1300 Philippines.

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HSBC GOES TO DAVAO!

HSBC, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, with operations in the Philippines since 1875, is part of one of the world's leading and most strongly capitalised banking and financial services institutions. We are seeking applications from highly motivated, committed, service and sales-oriented individuals who wish to pursue a career in our soon to be opened Davao City Branch as:

PREMIER RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

The HSBC Premier Career offers growth opportunities for individuals who want to be in the business of relationship and portfolio management for high net worth customers.

In addition to attractive benefits and compensation package, Premier Relationship Managers are paid commissions based on performance as well as other incentives.

The jobholder is responsible for growing and sustaining profitable client relationships for a portfolio of clients.

A Relationship Manager's main responsibilities are to:

- Increase Funds Under Management, inclusive of deposits and Wealth Management products;
- Acquire new clients and minimize attrition;
- Achieve personal income targets;
- Maintain an adequate portfolio distribution in terms of products and tenors;
- Identify clients' financial goals and expectations and assist them in selecting appropriate investment opportunities;
- Provide excellent and personalised customer service
- Proactively contact clients to establish meaningful long-term relationships.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have the personality, skill set and desire to grow and service the increasing sophisticated HSBC Premier customer base;
- Must possess strong communication and interpersonal skills;
- Must have a proven track record in frontline sales, strong personal network and good understanding of investments and financial markets would be an advantage;
- Must have local knowledge (surrounding area /speak local dialect).

GENERAL BANKING CLERICAL STAFF

Be part of HSBC's dynamic team of professionals who provide excellent customer service in the branch.

SALES OFFICERS

Be part of HSBC's dynamic team of sales professionals in Personal Financial Services. Responsibilities include soliciting and converting quality sales leads into customers of the Bank by working closely with the branch network to maximise business opportunities.

VP PERSONAL BANKING HEAD

The jobholder is responsible for the overall achievement of sales targets for his designated branch. This would involve:

- Build client base: Sales goals and bottom line through managing and coaching his team towards meeting the individual Portfolio and Customer targets and by making referrals and looking for cross sell opportunities;
- Successful implementation of sales strategy by proactively planning, prioritising and implementing sales by developing his team of sales individuals;
- Enhancement of the service image of the Bank by providing efficient and high quality professional customer service and building strong customer relationships;
- Continuous improvement of the Bank's service & sales processes and standards by ensuring the business meets all compliance/audit and quality standards.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have at least 5 years experience in personal financial services plus relevant experience in relationship management;
- Must have strong customer orientation with inclination towards sales;
- Must have strong communication, interpersonal skills and networking ability;
- Must have strong motivation to succeed/personal drive.

VP BRANCH OPERATIONS

The jobholder is expected to provide a solid and robust operational platform for the Branch and to manage the daily operations and other administrative functions to achieve optimum efficiency and profitability in line with strategic and operating plans. Ensures that excellent customer service is provided to Personal Banking, Premier and Commercial Banking.

To achieve this, the jobholder will do the following:

- Ensures a robust operational platform is achieved by the Branch
- He will be responsible for internal and external audit;
- Oversees the operational controls of the Branch by monitoring, reviewing and streamlining work procedures and adherence to operational guidelines;
- Ensures the branch complies with all applicable internal and external regulations

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have strong exposure in branch operations and customer service, minimum 3 years experience;
- Must have sufficient knowledge of Personal Banking products and services;
- Must have excellent customer service skills;
- Must possess strong communication and interpersonal skills;
- Must possess strong leadership skills;
- Must be attentive to details;
- Knowledge of Corporate Banking, Credit and Treasury would be an advantage.

ASSISTANT MANAGER BRANCH OPERATIONS

The jobholder will assist VP Branch Operations in the conduct of daily operations and administration of the branch, to achieve optimum efficiency and profitability in line with strategic and operating plans.

To achieve this, the jobholder will do the following:

- Maintain highest standard of effective and efficient customer service in the Branch through strong personal leadership and good grasp of operations and administrative functions;
- Oversees the operational controls of the Branch by monitoring, reviewing and streamlining work procedures and adherence to operational guidelines;
- Ensures the Branch complies with all applicable internal and external regulations.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience in branch operations and customer service preferred;
- Must be customer oriented;
- Must possess strong communication, interpersonal skills and strong leadership skills;
- Must be attentive to details;
- Knowledge of Personal Banking products would be an advantage;
- Knowledge of Corporate Banking, Credit and Treasury would be an advantage.

Qualified applicants will undergo a selection process.

Training opportunities, an automated work environment and an attractive remuneration package which recognises and rewards performance await qualified candidates.

If you can commit to a high pressure but rewarding career in Personal Financial Services and be part of HSBC's130 years of financial service excellence in the Philippines, send a full curriculum vitae, transcript of records and a recent 2X2 photograph, together with a letter outlining your suitability for the above position on or before 07 September 2006 to **nonoynuyles@hsbc.com.ph**

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Applicants are requested to apply in person together with their comprehensive resume and other credentials to:

BOIE INCORPORATED
520 Alabang-Zapote Road, Almanza, Las Piñas City
September 4 to 7, 2006

Or email us at: boie_recruit@yahoo.com

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

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MESSENGER / CLERK

- 25-30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course.
- With at least 3 years experience as a Messenger.
- Can drive a car and a motorcycle.
- Must be familiar with Metro Manila Streets (Makati/Ortigas areas).
- Honest, dependable & discreet.
- Must submit references from previous employers.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS,
Please call this number
(0917) 826-7963
for further instructions.

Or email tink.shelley@gmail.com

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- Male, single
- 20 to 25 years old
- at least college level
- with pleasing personality
- HONEST
- knows how to drive motorcycle, but not necessary (W/ LICENSE)

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- Male, single
- 20 to 25 years old
- with pleasing personality
- at least college level
- knowledge on basic plumbing & electrical works will be an advantage

Submit or mail us your resumé with picture & contact number at UNIT 2J, Pamplona Lumber Bldg. # 267 Real St., Pamplona 3 Las Piñas City.
- Qualified applicants will be notified for interview & exam

Other Requirements:
NBI, Police Clearance
Employment Certificate from previous employer
Transcript of Records

For inquiries, CALL 873-53-82
look for Rosie Asilo

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- Computer Skills (MS Word, Excel)

Interested applicants please send resume to:
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Fax : 82-2-2285-1180 or Email : jasmine.son@mmlkorea.co.kr
Mailing Address : A/E International Resources, Inc,. Tel No.(632)-631-9175. Jollibee Plaza Suite 2808, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila. POC : Mr. Ildefonso A. Yap.

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- Willing to travel ; results oriented
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Pls submit your resume w/ 2 pcs. 2x2 pictures, Transcript of Record, Employment Certificate & NBI Clearance

Interested parties may apply personally at
CHIATUNG PHILS., INC.
Unit 174 - 17/F The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City
Email: **recruitment_sii@yahoo.com.ph**
Pls. look for Ms. Cora Fermin

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Visit our ePLDT Ventus - Jupiter or Libertad sites on September 5, 6 & 7, 2006 from 10AM to 10PM. Call us at 898 7100 local 84000 or 84020 for more details.

You may also submit your application to parlanceHR@epldtventus.com.
Kindly indicate the Job Code. Be ready with your SSS Number, TIN and a 1x1 photo.

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ICRC

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Main tasks:
The polyvalent F/O will assist the delegate in running field activities mainly for Central and Southern Luzon. He will:

- contribute to the implementation and running of specific projects;
- help maintain contact with authorities, local Red Cross branches, and population;
- monitor and assess the general economic/security situation;
- develop ICRC's knowledge of its working environment.

Selection requirements:

- University degree in social science, education, communication or social work or solid professional experience in similar fields of activities
- Good command of English and Tagalog, written and spoken
- Good analytical skills, ability to write summary reports
- Good interpersonal and public speaking skills and ability to develop a network of contacts
- Good knowledge of computer and windows package
- Flexibility and open-minded personality
- Good working spirit and ability to work in an international and multi-disciplinary team
- Valid driver's licence and driving experience

Assets:

- Previous experience working within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and/or other international humanitarian organisations

What we offer:

- Interesting, rewarding work
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Qualified applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resume, recent NBI clearance and explain in their covering letter their motivation and interest in the position as well as salary expectation to the address below not later than **September 17th, 2006** to:

The Administrator, ICRC, 5th floor, Erechem Building, Corner Rufino & Salcedo Sts, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Philippines 1229. Or by e-mail to: icrcman_recruit@yahoo.com.ph.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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Submit complete resumé with 2x2 picture to:
Josol Bldg., E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong Norte, Libis, Quezon City
☎ 631-2262 to 69, Email add: ris@reedleyschool.com

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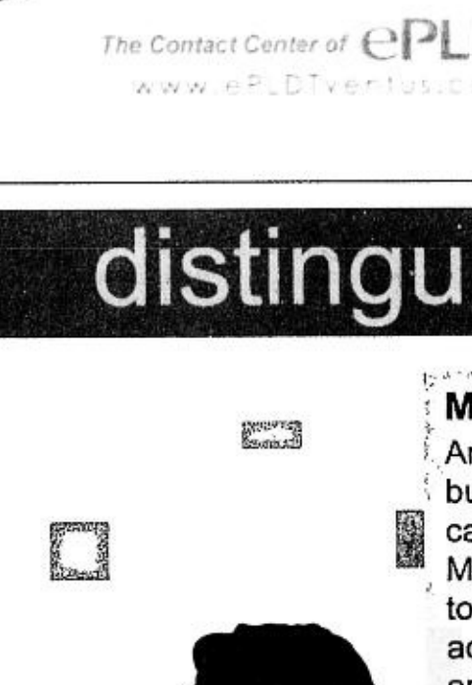

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- University of Perpetual Help System, Biñan - (049)511.3636
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- Trace Computer & Business College - 881.6960
- Centro Escolar University, Manila - (02) 735.6861
- STI College - Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija - (044) 463.3438
- Discover & Explore Computer Ctr., Pampanga - (047) 223.5976
- Asian Institute of Management, Makati - (02)-892.4011
- Southville Foreign Colleges, Parañaque - (02) 820.5958
- De La Salle Lipa, Inc. Lipa Batangas - (043) 756.1849
- ICC Alabang - (02) 850.6077
- ICC Dasmariñas Cavite - (046) 416.1925
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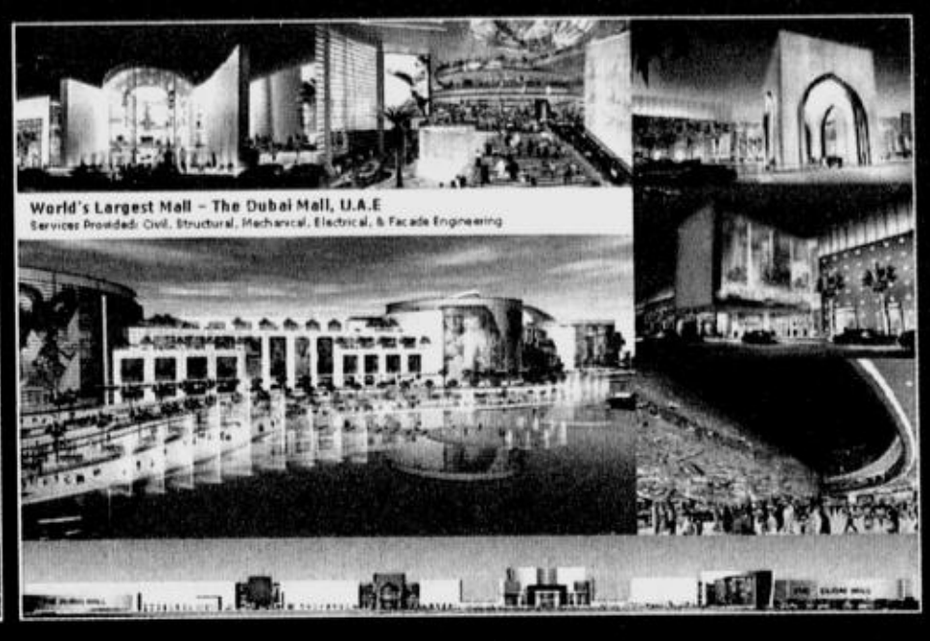

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I) QA/QC Engineers
J) Fire & Life Safety Engineers
K) Junior Design Engineers
L) Civil Works Engineers
M) Admin/HR/IT Staff
N) Accounting Staff

[All senior engineers must have 7 years relevant design experience on high-rise, commercial and industrial projects. Preferably familiar with US and British Standards]

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Interested applicants are invited to submit, send or e-mail their detailed resume (indicating position applied for) with present and expected salary to:

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25th Flr., Chatham House
116 Valero cor. V.A. Rufino Sts.
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1227 Philippines
Email: hrd@meinhardt.com.ph

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If you are

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- A self-starter who can work with a minimum of supervision

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Please send resume through email address: giftsandgraces@yahoo.com by Friday, September 15, 2006.

Gifts and Graces Fair Trade Foundation, Inc. is a non-stock, non-profit organization aimed at marketing products that support livelihood programs of select non-government organizations working to uplift the plight of the countless poor. It advocates social entrepreneurship and fair trade practices by providing these NGOs with market access and product development.

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Bring resumé with 2x2 photo
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Or call (049) 549-1943 to 45
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POSITION : **Driver**

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The A2Z Project is a multi-country USAID-funded project providing technical assistance and expertise to strengthen and implementing micronutrient programs to improve the nutrition and health of vulnerable populations. A2Z in the Philippines will work with national and local government institutions to integrate micronutrients into a range of health programs.

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- Male
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- Computer literate
- Required languages: English and Filipino
- Applicants should be Filipino Citizen
- Candidate must possess at least a Vocational Diploma / Short Course Certificate or Bachelor's / College Degree in Business Studies / Administration / Management, Economics, Commerce or equivalent.
- At least 3 years experienced driving corporate vehicle or equivalent.
- Must be available for a full time position.

Submit resumé and certificate of employment not later than September 15, 2006 to Academy for Educational Development, Inc. – A2Z Project 6/F Marcos C. Roces Enterprise, 704 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Metro Manila, Atention: Administrative Officer.

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is in need of

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Qualifications:

1. College graduates.
2. Must be proficient in the following computer applications:
   a. MS Word
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   c. MS Excel
3. Must be proficient in English, both oral and written.
4. 25 to 35 years old.
5. Can work with minimum supervision.

Contact Information:

Interested applicants may submit their curriculum vitae and application letter to:

Mrs. Clarita Cortez
Administration Building
Asian Social Institute
1518 Leon Guinto St.,
Malate, 1004 Manila
or call (63-2) 526-5590; 523-8265/66
or e-mail: **asi_acasec222@yahoo.com.ph**

Only short listed applicants will be notified for interview.

ONE PHARMA COMPANY, INC.

One of the leading pharmaceutical firms in the country is in urgent need of the following for its expansion program:

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- Male/female graduate of any 4 year course
- Preferably with selling and promotional experience
- With pleasing personality, not more than 27 years old
- With good communication skills, oral and written
- Willing to undergo training
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

SALESMEN/COLLECTORS

- Male/Graduate of any 4 year course (background in Accounting is preferred)
- Preferably with selling and collection experience
- With good communication skills (both oral and written)
- With pleasing personality
- Resident of Mindanao.

Interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resume and recent 2x2 photo. Salesmen/Collector can mail to the address below or email resume with picture to creditncollectiononepharma@yahoo.com

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Blk. 80 Lot 7 A. Liwanag cor. G. Diaz St.,
BFRV, Classic I, Las Piñas City

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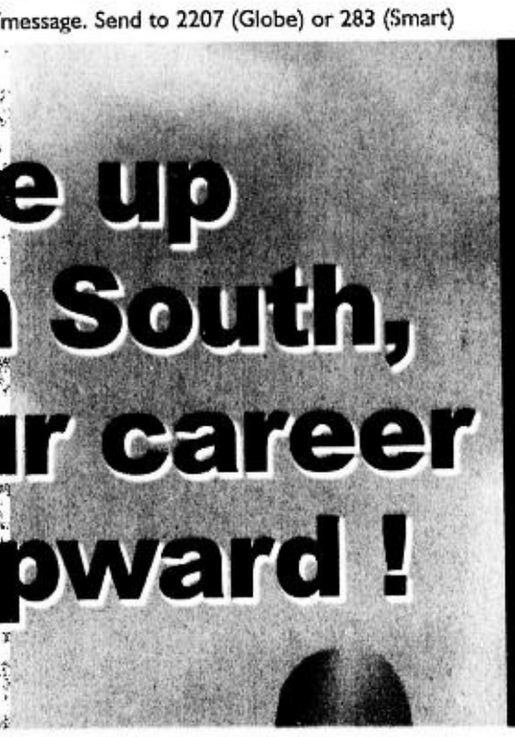

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- Customer Service Representatives
- Operations Senior Managers
- Operations Managers
- Administration Manager
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- Workforce Management Supervisor
- Workforce Management Specialists
- HR Assistants
- On-the-Job Trainees

DAVAO

VACANT POSITIONS

- Product Support Representatives
- Team Captains
- Operations Managers
- Operations Senior Managers
- Training Supervisor
- Soft-Skill Trainers
- Technical Trainers
- HR Manager
- HR Assistants
- Administration Managers
- Administration Assistants
- MIS Supervisor
- MIS Specialists
- MIS Assistants
- Accounting Supervisor
- Accounting Assistants

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Eastwood City Cyberpark,
Libis Quezon City 1110
Tel. No. 423-8716; 423-8715; 423-8910
Fax. 423-8755
E-mail: recruitment@link2support.com

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Link2Support, Inc. - CDO
Block 2 Lot 3 Trade St.
Pueblo de Oro IT Park,
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. # : (088) 853-2210
Fax #: (088) 853-2229
E-mail: recruitment_cdo@link2support.com

Please bring your resume for immediate interview

Microsoft CERTIFIED Partner

Asia Netcom is a major pan-Asian provider of advanced telecommunications services to multinational enterprises, ISPs and carriers. The company operates a wholly-owned regional submarine cable system and an extended global service platform that power a full portfolio of corporate infrastructure, Internet and next-generation networking solutions. The company has been recognized as being at the forefront of the industry by winning Frost & Sullivan's Data Communications Service Provider of the Year for 2005 and 2006.

Asia Netcom

We are seeking high-caliber individuals equipped with strong telecommunications engineering experience to join our operations team. Qualified candidates should be highly-motivated, able to multi-task, and demonstrate a high level of flexibility and initiative in a fast-paced environment.

Successful candidates will fill positions in the following areas

▮ Network Surveillance
▮ Fields Operations
▮ Service Delivery/Provisioning
▮ Technical Project Management

General Job Requirements:

- Degree or Diploma in Engineering or telecommunications-related discipline or relevant experience.
- Minimum 4 – 6 years experience in the telecommunications industry with at least 3 years working with Subsea / Terrestrial / SDH / DWDM networks.
- Good communication skills (both written and verbal).
- A team player able to work effectively with employees at all levels of the Network Operations team.
- Well-developed analytical and problem-solving skills, with the ability to set priorities, recognize root causes, and recommend solutions.
- Ability to work under pressure
- Take initiative and work with minimum supervision in a fast-paced environment.

Specific requirements for Network Surveillance positions are:

- Experience and knowledge of working inside Network Operations Centers on a 24/7 shift roster.

Specific requirements for Customer Service Assurance discipline are:

- Fluent spoken English and strong English writing skills.
- Fluency in spoken and written forms of Asia Netcom - supported languages, including Cantonese, Mandarin and Japanese, may be required.
- Experience in Call Center or Service Center environments or direct job experience required.
- Customer facing experience essential – either face to face or over the phone.
- Willing to work in a 24/7 environment.

▮ Local Access Management
▮ Network Trading
▮ Customer Service Assurance

Specific requirements for Network Trading discipline are:

- 5 – 6 years of work experience in the telecommunications industry. Familiarity with International and Domestic telecommunications markets & networks is an advantage.
- Knowledge in Co-location service, SDH, DWDM, DSL, Ethernet, MPLS and other communications network services and technologies is preferred. Must be highly customer-focused and diligent towards customer-related service issues.

Interested applications are invited to forward the resumes to the following email address:
recruitment@asianetcom.com

All information supplied will be treated as strictly confidential for the purpose of selection and recruitment. Only short-listed candidates will be notified; for candidates not selected, we would like to thank you in advance for your interest in a career in Asia Netcom.

Our Australian Client has requested we seek out

MASTER MARINER

Saybolt Australasia is an Australian Company that specialises in the supply of marine services to the shipping community. This position has become available in its Dampier office located 1700km North of Perth in Western Australia **and carries full Australian salary and employment conditions**.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Master Mariner Class I

MINIMUM EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Minimum of five (5) years sea going experience sailing on dry bulk carriers and tankers. Sailing as Master is not essential, ideally the candidate will currently have experience as second or chief mate. A thorough knowledge of the following is required:

- Loadmaster duties including preparation of stowage plans for dry bulk carriers including minimising of warping requirements whilst taking into consideration safety parameters.
- Draft surveys and On/off hire vessel condition surveys.
- Bunker and P&I club surveys.
- Ship handling skills.
- Duties associated with FPSO and FSO operations.
- Tanker safety officer duties.

DUTIES

In house training will be provided to enable the following duties to be performed - Loadmaster duties at the Dampier Salt Limited berth; Draft surveys; Quality and quantity inspections; Tanker safety officer as and when required; Compilation of inspection reports and general staff duties.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Ability to work unsupervised in a team environment and accept instructions regarding work schedules incl. weekends and public holidays to meet work commitments. Willing to fly in light aircraft (helicopters) as required. Must be Computer literate including word processing and spreadsheet skills.

Applications with full details of qualifications and experience to be e-mailed to:

Saybolt
A CORE LABORATORIES COMPANY

adielenberg@yahoo.com.au
OR
Tel: + 63 928 5030806
No fees to be collected.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE ADVISOR

An international development organization has an immediate need for an ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE ADVISOR who will lead the urban environment team in designing, implementing and evaluating approaches to improve the delivery of urban environmental services through increased investment to urban environmental infrastructure. Central to this role is to ensure the establishment and sustainable operation of the Philippine Water Revolving Fund (PWRF). The incumbent, under the guidance of the Office Chief and of the Urban Environmental Management (UEM) Team Leader, will represent the organization in important negotiations involving PWRF. As a recognized expert in environmental infrastructure financing issues, the Advisor will also serve as the team's Specialist for all its financing-related activities. S/he will work under the general direction of the Team Leader of the Urban Environmental Management Team with exercise of independent judgment and formal decision making authority. The candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- Master's Degree in a field related to municipal financing, water financing, economics, finance or public administration.
- Six to eight years of professional level experience related to urban infrastructure financing, water financing, or municipal financing is required. This should include strategy formulation and program management in a development context. Experience in human and institutional capacity building is preferred.
- Should have demonstrated capability to design and implement environmental infrastructure financing strategies and to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and partners.
- Excellent command of English (both written and oral), computer skills, ability to develop and delivery professional quality reports and presentations, strong interpersonal and teamwork skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than September 08, 2006**, to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

PHILSAGA MINING CORPORATION
Main Office: Enora Building, 7A Bonifacio St., Davao City
Telefax No. (082) 222 8046
Mill Site: Bayugan III, Rosario, Agusan del Sur
Telefax No. (085) 839-3526/3442

PSMC

RESIDENT PROJECT MANAGER

A challenging position of team building and increasing production.

The Company is seeking the services of an experienced mining engineer or metallurgist with a demonstrated track record in building and leading a coordinated team for managing gold mining and milling activities. The position will involve supervising and improving the coordination of all aspects of day to day mining and milling activities, supervising expansion of milling activities and associated infrastructure, and assisting as required with any new mine developments.

The successful applicants should have a working understanding of the requirements for and operation of narrow vein mines, exploration and resource development, a comprehensive knowledge of milling activities and associated support services including transportation, power generation, civil works, community relations and employee welfare.

It is essential that the successful applicant have a pleasant personality and be a team leader, be able to communicate effectively with international personnel, be versed in the construction of, and monitoring and adherence to project budgets, and have a demonstrated understanding of the project economics.

Please address your Curriculum Vitaé to: **Mr. Samuel G. Afdal**
philsaga@philcom.ph, philsaga@bayandsl.com, Phil_saga@yahoo.com
or Telefax No. (082) 222-8046.

INDUSTRY SUPPLY COMPANY
urgently needs

Full Time Sales Personnel
- Highly motivated college graduatec
- 20-25 years old
- Experienced in sales an advantage
- Computer literate
- Salary plus commission

Production Staff
- Mechanical Engineering graduate
- 22-28 years old
- Computer literate

All qualified applicants may apply in person with Bio-data, Transcript of Records, NBI/Police Clearance, and 2 colored ID pictures at:

5 Star Cmpd. P. dela Cruz St., Sitio Gitna, Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches, Quezon City
from10-12 M-F Tel. Nos. 9391435, 9391404

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Unit 305, AIC Gold Tower Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
POEA LICENSE NO: POEA-624-LB-070904-R
Email: nmc82002@yahoo.com, nationmanpower@pldtdsl.net
Tel. Nos. (632) 6329524, 6329814 Fax No. (632) 6342501
Cellular Nos. +(63) 0919-5392406/+(63) 0917-2703733

We are urgently in need of the following positions for QATAR:

1) **AL MALKI TRADING & CONTRACTING COMPANY-POEA REG. NO. 10088490**
- a) 40 – Air-con Technicians
- b) 20 – Plumbers
- c) 4 – Autocad Draftsmen (HVAC)
- d) 3 – Autocad Draftsmen (Plumbing & Firefighting)
- e) 3 – Autocad Draftsmen (Electrical)
- f) 50 – Building Electricians
- g) 3 – Executive Secretaries

* minimum of 3 years experience or above in handling high-network projects on Commercial Complexes, High-rise Residential Towers, large residential Villas with respect to Building services namely Fire Alarm Panel, smoke and heat detector, Fire Alarm bell and sounder and other Electrical Services to Mechanical equipment & HVAC Plants.

For Autocad applicants employer is requesting to bring Sample of Drawings.

2) **GULF AND CONTRACTING INDUSTRIAL & TRADING COMPANY-POEA REG. NO. 10089519**
- a) 25 – Steel Fabricators
- b) 25 – Aluminum Fabricators
- c) 15 – Aluminum Engineers
- d) 5 – Steel Structural Design Engineers
- e) 5 – Steel Fabricator Prod'n Manager

* minimum of 2 years experience in high-rise buildings
* experienced in steel truss and roofs

Interested applicants, visit us for more details!!! Please bring 2 sets of resumé with 2x2 picture.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

EXPERTS : **INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN with motor rewinding**
MACHINE FABRICATOR
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
- Female, Food Tech/Chemical Engg'r Graduate
- With working experience as R&D in Food Industries

Apply at : **E. Rodriguez St., (formerly Oxford Compound) Sta. Rosa I, Marilao, Bulacan**

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
FULL-TIME / PART-TIME COLLEGE PROFESSORS

For College of Criminology
- Lawyers / Criminologists
- Forensic Chemist / Toxicologist

For College of Arts and Sciences
- English
- Pilipino
- Preferably residents of Novaliches, Quezon City
- Send application letter with resumé on or before September 20, 2006

SEND APPLICATION LETTER / RESUMÉ TO
emira_hrd@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 1180
Quezon City Central P.O.
1151 QC

WANTED
Licensed School Librarian
- Female
- Computer Literate
- Library Science graduate preferably with experience
- Send application letter with resumé on or before September 20, 2006

SEND APPLICATION LETTER / RESUMÉ TO
emira_hrd@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 1180
Quezon City Central P.O.
1151 QC

INTERCONTINENTAL. HOTELS GROUP

EXPLORE THE MOST GLOBAL HOTEL COMPANY

InterContinental Hotels Group owns and manages a portfolio of well-respected brands recognized the world over. An industry pioneer, we are the largest hotel company by number of rooms and manage the world's largest loyalty program. Our expansion shows our commitment to sustained growth into the future. We seek enthusiastic, friendly people who will lend their talents to help us realize our vision of being the world's leading hospitality brand owner.

With more than 3,800 hotels in 6 continents across more than 100 countries, WE are the most global Hotel Company.

Our Philippine Reservations Center is looking for:

Customer Service Representatives / Reservation Sales Agents (English or Spanish)

Job summary

- Represents the Company by coordinating all aspects of Priority Club Programs and serves as liaison between the guest and hotels in order to maintain member satisfaction
- Delivers Individualized Customer Experiences by focusing on finding hotel accommodations that will best fit our guests needs

Requirements

- Must be a Bachelor/College degree holder
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills with one of the following languages: English or Spanish
- Customer service and/or sales experience an advantage
- Education and experience in the hospitality or IT industry an advantage
- Must be willing to work on a rotating shift

IHG Employees enjoy:

Great people & opportunities, training and development, bonus and benefits, discounts in any of our international hotel brands.

Other available positions:

E-Contacts Web Support, Hotel Performance Support Specialists and Data Management Coordinators

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ADDRESS 29/F, Tower II, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City TEL 8578800 EMAIL phlro.resumes@ichotelsgroup.com WEBSITE www.ichotelsgroup.com

Millward Brown

Are you curious about people.....their thoughts .....their motivations?

If so, you might be the person we are looking for.

With our continued growth in the Philippines, we have opportunities for an Account Director, Account Manager and Research Executive.

Over the past three decades, Millward Brown has grown to be one of the world's leading research companies. With offices in more than 43 countries, we work with 70 of the top 100 global brands.

Today, we continue to push the boundaries of marketing research and brand consulting. Powered by insight, innovative thinking, and a rich heritage, we focus on providing actionable solutions to address key business issues. Our expertise spans from communications assessment and media evaluation to brand performance monitoring and marketing accountability.

Our people are a hugely diverse group of professionals who share a distinctive set of values. Our management structure is designed to facilitate communication and cooperation among all of our people - ensuring that our clients enjoy a service that blends in-depth, first-hand local knowledge with a genuinely global perspective.

Your academic background is less important than your desire to understand and represent the mind of the consumer.

At Research Executive level, your passion for brands and advertising with at least 2 years experience in market research will stand you in good stead.

At the Account Manager and Account Director level - do you have a research or marketing background, with at least 5-8 years experience in client service. Proven knowledge of market research, skills in team management and leadership, an understanding and experience in staff development, background and experience in P&L management, demonstrated ability to build strong client relationships and develop business, strong presentation and interpersonal communications skills.

If you're curious about joining us, email your resumé to:-

E-mail: **agnes.tayao@millwardbrown.com**

8/F Equitable Bank Tower
8751 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Millward Brown – the research power behind great brands

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Systems Administration Officer

Responsibilities

The position provides system administration and technical support for ADB's mainframe infrastructure, evaluates, plans, installs, sets up and maintains the mainframe related hardware and system software components.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Computer Centre Administration Specialist, Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a bachelor degree in computer science or related field.
- at least 5 years Mainframe Systems Programming experience specifically on the Z series and S/390 platforms, i.e. OS390/ ZOS.
- considerable experience with various aspects of the mainframe infrastructure specifically in terms of base operating system (OS/390 and ZOS); major subsystems (i.e. VTAM, CICS and JES2); networking (SNA, TCP/IP); peripherals (e.g. 3590 Tape Drive, 3390 storage systems and other storage systems such as EMC); performance and availability monitoring (i.e. RMF, SMF, TMON); utilities (i.e. CA-1 Tape Management System, SMPE, DFDSS).
- experience in VM and Unix (AIX, Solaris, Linux) are desirable.
- exposure to enterprise data base management systems like ADABAS, Oracle would be an advantage.
- ability to relate system functions and features to business requirements.
- ability to develop programs and utilities to improve reporting and process automation.
- ability to express complex technical concepts effectively, both verbally and in writing.
- ability to work well with people from many different disciplines with varying degrees of technical experience.
- ability to communicate effectively dealing with internal and external customers and suppliers.
- sound appreciation of the principles of contract management and the process adopted by ADB in the management of contracts with external parties.
- sound knowledge of software tools (such as Lotus Notes, MS Project and MS Office suite).

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-NO06-150(4)-OIST** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **15 September 2006**.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

www.adb.org

Asian Development Bank ADB

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WANTED

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT
By a Leading Petroleum Equipment Distributor

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Qualifications:

1. Single, 21 to 30 years old.
2. Accounting major (computer literate)
3. With at least 1 year experience in Accounting work preferred.

Send BIO-DATA and PHOTO to:
P.O. Box 1348, MCC, Makati
Tel. No. 844-4233 / 729-7472

A FAST GROWING SECURITY AGENCY is in need of:

MARKETING OFFICER/REPRESENTATIVE
- Male or female, 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- With 3 years experience in Marketing/Sales
- Skilled in dealing w/ people, w/ impressive persuasion skills
- With working knowledge of Microsoft Office/Internet

FINANCE AND ADMIN. ASSISTANT
- Female, 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- With experience in bookkeeping and basic accounting
- Excellent communication skills
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Office application

OPERATIONS OFFICER
- Male, 25 to 40 years old
- Criminology graduate or any related course
- With experience in investigation, surveys and risk analysis
- At least 2-3 years managerial/supervisory experience
- With good PR, computer literate
- Knows how to drive and with valid driver's license

Interested applicants may apply personally with their resume at:
#18 Circle St., Pasig Greenland Village, Rosario, Pasig City
or call 640-9521/9010755 look for Ms. Lotis Almeda
or you may send it thru email at lhot106@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A established non-government organization that promotes and support policies, projects and programs for food security and fair trade, is in need of:

BOOKKEEPER

Accounting graduate, at least 3 years working experience in a non-government/social development setting, well-versed in the preparation of month-end accruals, adjusting entries, financial statements and mandatory reports/remittances to government agencies .

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resumé (with at least 3 reference persons) and 2 x 2 picture not later than September 8, 2006 to:

KAISAMPALAD Inc.,
Unit 204, Eagle Court Condominium
#26 Matalino Street, Brgy Central. Quezon City
E-mail: kaisampalad@skyinet.net

KUMON

Our mission is to develop the potential of each individual child.

If you...
- ✓ are persistent and consistent with your words and actions...
- ✓ have a positive attitude towards life...
- ✓ sincerely believe that education is an important tool to improve our nation...
- ✓ are willing to learn and can learn fast...
- ✓ have a strong purpose to develop our children and people...

Then you might be the person we are looking for to join our dynamic personnel as

Area Development Manager (ADM)
- Male or Female, 25 to 29 years old
- Preferably graduate of any education or business course
- Has at least 2 to 3 years experience in educational setting or any education-related organization, marketing or business development
- Willing to travel extensively, local and overseas
- A good team player and can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to work long hours

The core responsibility of the of the Area Development Manager (ADM) is to help more and more children benefit from the Kumon Method and by helping more people with the same mindset to establish centers by ensuring that only the right Kumon Method of Instruction and management is being used.

Instructions Team Staff
- Male or Female, 22 to 27 years old
- Preferably graduate of Education (Math/English Majors), Engineering or any related course
- Has at least 2 years experience in the field of education or training
- Possesses excellent interpersonal, communication, presentation and training skills
- Flexible, organized, fast learner and can work with accuracy and speed
- Willing to travel and work long hours, even on weekends and holidays

The core responsibility of Instructions Team Staff is to provide Instructors substantial information through continuous trainings and seminars in giving instruction to Math and Reading students in their respective centers.

Center Staff
- Male or Female, 21 to 26 years old
- Preferably a graduate of related courses in Math or English, or child education
- Has at least 6 months to 1-year experience in teaching
- Possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Has interest and passion in working with children
- A good team player and can work with minimum supervision

The core responsibility of the Center Staff is to help students in our company centers in equipping themselves with the necessary academic and life skills learned through the Kumon Method.

We are in need of Center Staff for our Company Center in Sta. Maria, Bulacan and for our Franchise centers in Makati, Quezon City, Pasig, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Cavite and Laguna areas.

New Graduates are encouraged to apply.

Please send your resume, transcript of records and a recent 2 x 2 photo to Kumon Philippines, Inc. 19/F Philam Life Tower, Paseo de Roxas Ave., Makati City or email at heidi@kumon.com.ph. You may also contact us at 885-0226 loc. 130 and look for Ms. Heidi Medalla. Application forms will be pre-screened and the qualified applicants will be invited for a Company Orientation and Testing.

Previous applicants for these positions need not apply.

King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre – Riyadh is JCIA* accredited and operates 722 beds with approximately 8,700 employees. Located in the capital of Saudi Arabia, the hospital provides a full range of tertiary, secondary and primary health care programs at its main campus facility, as well as the King Fahad National Children's Cancer Centre. The KFSH & RC is the national referral center for Oncology, Organ Transplantation, Cardiovascular Diseases and Genetic Diseases.

Staff Nurses

With two years experience are now required for all specialties including Medical / Surgical, Neonatal and Pediatric ICUs, Recover Room, Pediatrics, CVT, Cardiac, Oncology, Hematology, BMT, Clinics

Successful candidates can avail of the following attractive benefits:
- *Sign-on Bonus for certain areas*
- *Tax Free Salary*
- *Premium Pay for certain areas*
- *Annual Bonus*
- *Severance Pay*
- *Free Accommodation and Utilities*
- *Free Flights*
- *Free Medical*
- *Relocation Allowance*
- *54-day Annual Leave*
- *Excellent Professional Development Opportunities*

EXPERIENCED REQUIRED: Staff Nurse in the assigned specialty, preferably with St. Luke's Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, Makati Medical Center, Manila Doctor's Hospital, Chinese General Hospital, Asian Hospital, Cardinal Santos Medical Centre, Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Children's Medical Center, Veterans Memorial Hospital, ABM Sison Medical Centre (Medical City), Kidney Center of the Philippines, Metropolitan Hospital, Lourdes Hospital, Capitol Medical Centre, St. James Medical Centre, Angeles Medical Centre, Cebu Doctor's Hospital, Velez Hospital-Cebu City, Iloilo Mission Hospital-Iloilo, Iloilo Doctor's Hospital, Davao Doctor's Hospital and San Pedro Hospital.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS must PERSONALLY register and submit detailed resumé with job descriptions, certificates of employment / training, diploma and transcript of records, board license / certificate, valid PRC card, two (2) letters of reference from previous / current supervisor, No Objection Certificate (for ex-Saudi), passport copy (if available) and 1 pc. Passport size picture, between 8-4 PM or the nearest POEA Regional Extension Unit, for the issuance of KFSH Application Form and Skills Checklist. Please call 7221174 / 75 for further inquiries. Qualified candidates may also send their CVs to **poea_gpb@yahoo.com.**

Representatives of KFSH & RC, Riyadh, will conduct the interview on 22 September 2006 at the POEA Auditorium.

'Come for the Experience; Stay for the Opportunities'

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Approved by the Department of Labor and Employment

Bayer CropScience

BAYER

Our Sales Group is in need of:

(1) Area Sales Coordinator-Northern & Western Mindanao

__All applicants should have the following qualifications:__

__Education:__
- *BS Agriculture, Agricultural Business Management Graduate or Any Related Courses.*

__Experience:__
- *Minimum of Five (5) Years Experience in Sales and Collection*
- *At Least Three (3) Years Experience in Retailers and Distributions Management*

__Skills:__
- *Excellent Oral and Written Communication.*
- *Very Good Negotiating Ability*
- *Self-Motivated and Can Work Well With Minimum Supervision*
- *Team Player and Can Relate Well with All Levels in the Sales Team*
- *Customer-Service Oriented, With Good Analytical Skills*

__Other Qualifications:__
- *Male, 25-30 years old*
- *Computer Literate, Proficient in Windows Applications*

__QUALIFIED CANDIDATES__ are requested to email their resume with pictures at __cristina.malabanan@bayercropscience.com__ or send it to Human Resource Department, 3F Bayer House, Canlubang Industrial Estate, Calamba City not later than **8th of September 2006.**

IFC International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has established a technical assistance program for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Philippines (PEP Philippines). PEP Philippines, with contributions from other bilateral and multi-lateral donors, has offices in Manila and Davao, Mindanao. The program has a mandate to provide technical assistance to support the development of small and medium enterprises, particularly in Mindanao, initially in three key areas: access to finance, agribusiness linkages and business enabling environment.

PEP Philippines is currently seeking a SEAPlantNet-Philippines IT Assistant.

__Scope of the job__: The SEAPlantNet-Philippines Webmaster will be responsible for setting up and operating the SourceNet component of SEAplantNet-Philippines. The broad aim of SourceNet is to link seaplant farm production areas together through IT terminals that will be placed with farmer cooperators throughout the key seaplant production areas of Southern Philippines. Initially the terminals will be placed in 14 locations in Zamboanga peninsula and Tawi-tawi. SourceNet will be a key component of SEAplantNet-Philippines as it becomes a comprehensive metamediary platform that includes buy/sell facilities, knowledge, information, tools, and solutions that link seaplant farmers to value-chain players and end users and vice versa, resulting in transparent operations and closer collaboration within the seaplant value-chain.

__Qualifications and Position Requirements:__
- BS degree in computer Science or related areas
- Suitable IT skills: knowledge of either NET Technology, Macromedia and Flash Animation, Adobe Photoshop, HTML and Dreamweaver
- Basic Knowledge in Window XP, Lotus Notes, LAN and Communication System
- Basic Knowledge of Office Technology; PC's , Printers, Fax Machine
- Team player with enthusiasm for the goals of SEAplantNet Philippines
- Strong interpersonal skills with a good level of written and oral presentation skills in Filipino and English.
- Willing to travel throughout Southern Philippines.
- Practical work experience of working with farmers and farmer communities an advantage

The positions will be based in IFC's PEP Philippines Davao office. Salaries will be commensurate to qualification and experience. Candidates are invited to send resumes to aluz@ifc.org and rguillermo@ifc.org not later than the close of business hours on September 15, 2006. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence. For corporate information, please visit www.ifc.org.

Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

Social Housing Finance Corporation
a subsidiary of National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation

The **Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC)**, is in need of hardworking, honest and committed personnel to fill-up the following key positions

Vice-President for CMP Operations – Bachelor's degree pref in Finance, Accounting, LLB, or other related business course; 6 years supervisory experience w/ 3-5 years experience in loan & mortgage operations (processing, account management, individualization)

Vice-President for Finance & Administration - Bachelors degree in Accounting Finance, LLB or other related business course; 6 years supervisory experience w/ 3-5 years experience in financial or administrative management covering the areas of financial reporting & analysis, budgeting, administrative systems & procedures. Must have in-depth knowledge on financial procedures & administrative management.

Vice-President for Treasury - Bachelor's degree pref. in Accounting, Economics, Management, Management of Financial Institutions or other related business course; 6 years supervisory experience w/ 3-5 years experience in cash management, fund sourcing and custodianship

Internal Audit Manager - CPA; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in audit work pref. in a financial institution.

Legal Manager - Lawyer; 5 years supervisory experience w/ 2-4 years experience in litigation, documentation, counseling.

Information Systems Manager - Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or other IT equivalent; 5 years supervisory exp. w/ 2-4 years experience in systems analysis, programming & design, dev't of web sites & administration, D-Base, computerized accounts servicing, systems & procedures.

Administration Manager - Bachelor's degree pref. in Psychology, Management, Behavioral Science or related courses; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in other areas of HR such as Benefits, Payroll, Timekeeping, Building & Office Administration, Training & Org. Dev. Strong background in labor & human relations would be a distinct advantage.

Cash Management Manager - CPA; 5 years supervisory exp. w/ 2-4 years experience in management of cash, investments, control systems with regard to the handling of corporate funds.

Project Accreditation, Evaluation & Monitoring Manager - A graduate of any business related course; 5 years supervisory experience w/ 2-4 experience in project evaluation, accreditation particularly for CMP projects.

Technical Services Manager - Bachelor's degree w/ license in Civil Engineering, Geodetic Engineering, Architecture; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 experience in real estate appraisal, technical know-how on subdivision projects, familiarity in BP220 & PD 957 and other related housing laws.

Loan Examination Manager - Commerce graduate pref. CPA; 5 years supervisory exp. w/ 2-4 years experience in loan processing for housing loans or other relevant activities.

Mortgage Operations Manager - LLB graduate pref. member of the BAR; 5 yrs supervisory exp. w/ 2-4 years experience in loan processing for housing loans or other relevant activities.

Accounts Management Manager - Bachelor's degree pref. in Accounting, Finance Management or other related business course; 5 years supervisory exp. w/ 2-4 years experience in accounts management & servicing w/ strong ability to formulate collection strategies/schemes & programs.

All applicants must be computer literate.

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé (stating position applied for), transcript of records, recent 2x2 picture to our Admin Dept. at 4/F Filomena Bldg., 104 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Village Makati from Mon-Fri., 8:00 - 5:00 pm on or before September 15, 2006. Previous applicants need not apply.

HEXAGON TOWER PHILIPPINES INC.

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Preferably not more than 30 years old

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Proficient in computer application
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- Can adapt to, and enjoy working and living abroad.

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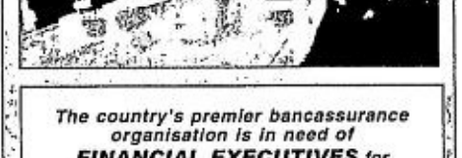

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Or you can e-mail your resume to: the President, Green Circle Realty Sales Inc., at greencircle_realty@yahoo.com
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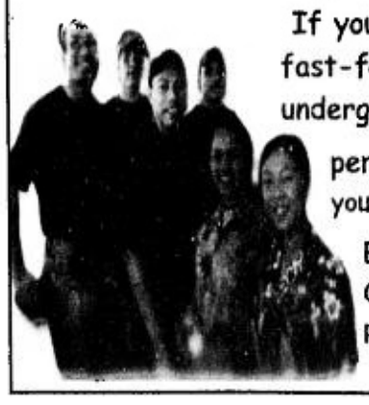

If you believe you have what it takes to manage a fast-food restaurant and if you are a college undergraduate, fluent in English, with pleasing personality please let us know. Bring your resume to Unit 1210 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas, Pasig.
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Top 3 traits bosses look for in their staff

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER CREATES A NEW PAGE—Working People—that focuses on employees who want to get up in the corporate ladder quicker. We will welcome any topic requests from the readers. Just send your letters to the e-mail address on top.

For the maiden issue, we ask top CEOs of various companies in diverse industries what they would list as the top three attributes they look for in their staff. ***-Margie Quimpo-Espino***

Diligence

The key attributes are: being diligent, meaning meticulous and thorough; passionate, with high energy; works for a higher purpose, not just self-interest, integrity.

-Antonio R. Ng
President, Clark Development Corp.

Honesty

Honesty, competence, diligence

-Joey Roxas
President, Eagle Securities (a stock brokerage)

Integrity

I value integrity in thought and action, a passion for doing the best in whatever undertaking and a keen ability to work with and through people.

-Gerardo Ablaza
President, Globe Telecom

Common sense

Common sense, good work ethics, emotional maturity

-Nonna P. Nanagas
President, Dentsu Inc. (ad agency)

Determined

The most important trait I look for in a person is determination. Next would be integrity and third would be intelligence.

-Cecilio Pedro
President, Lamoiyan Corp. (maker of Hapee toothpaste)

Can inspire

Ability to sort out the right priority amidst ambiguity, strong execution skills of strategy plans, ability to inspire self and others in times of adversity.

-Med Mateo
President, Philips Philippines

Bias for action

Honesty, bias for action, attention to detail

-Henry T. Co
President, Ford Motor Philippines

Efficiency

The three attributes I am looking for in my staff are: efficiency, integrity and good attitude.

-Felipe Gozon
President GMA 7

'I want to quit as team leader'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I USED TO WORK AS A CALL center agent. Six months ago I was promoted as team leader. Since then my life has been miserable. I am responsible for call center agents who are new on the job. They seem to resent my telling them what to do. Yet, what I tell them is for their own good, so that they will do good work and pass their probationary period.

I felt happier when I was a call center agent. Can I ask to go back to my former job? Please advise.

Anxious Supervisor

I urge you to stay on. Be patient with yourself. Becoming a leader is a journey of many steps. It may be frustrating and disappointing sometimes, but the rewards of leadership are great.

Recently, I attended the wake of a dear friend and mentor Greg S. Cendana, former director of National Media Production Center. His wake was jampacked with many people he has helped become leaders in different fields. One of God's best gifts to me was a quiet but effective boss in Cendana. I was a fresh graduate out of university then. He empowered me to optimize my talents, have a deep respect for the dignity of the human person and stretch myself to deliver seemingly impossible results. How did he do it? He made me feel I was his favorite. I realized he evoked the same feeling in every person whose life he touched.

Recently, I came across a book entitled, "Quiet Leadership" by David Rock. Cendana is the embodiment of the six practices mentioned in the book on how to transform performance at work. You might want to try these ideas.

One is to 'let people do the thinking.' The best way to help people perform better is by helping them think better and in different ways. This works more than telling them what to do. A conversation with Cendana provokes you to focus on solutions. You raise a problem or an issue with him. He listens intently and asks you a question that will make you think. He encourages you to zero in on solutions that are doable. He also enables you to stretch your mental capability, forging a new way of thinking. Telling people what to do encourages mental laziness and dependency. It does not jolt people out of their comfort zone and therefore they think in terms of status quo.

This practice emphasizes the positive. Positive, more than negative feedback enables new behaviors. Put process before content. Have a clear objective and structure for every conversation. Choose a focus for each conversation. Cendana did this almost effortlessly.

Two, is to 'listen with potential.' Cendana listened for potential at two levels. One is the potential of the other person, recognizing and building talent. The second level is deep listening. He never interrupted you while you are speaking. He trusted people would find their way through their dilemmas and problems. He listened to people's capabilities, insights and possibilities. He seemed to have the clarity of seeing the forest and allowing you to go beyond the trees of tactics, details and emotions.

Three is to 'speak with intent.' He was a man of few words. He spoke with clarity and substance. He is able to communicate the core idea using very few words. He was succinct, specific and generous in explaining what he wanted to say. He also spoke kindly but effectively.

Four is to 'dance toward insight.' This relates to what happens when people develop insights. Insights would refer to specific functioning of the brain that gives off energy. Rock explains these key steps as: awareness of a dilemma, reflection, illumination and motivation. The structure of the conversation can elicit insights from others.

It begins with asking permission if there is an emotional response to what we have to say. Asking permission helps people to feel safe, secure and trusting and allows you to ask tough questions. Then, it pays to make sure both parties are coming from the same situation and intent with a full disclosure of facts. Then, develop the right questions to elicit insight and reflection. Thinking questions move from the what to the how.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Five is to 'create new thinking.' CREATE is an acronym designed to improve people's thinking. It stands for current reality, explore alternatives and tap energy. Based on the desired outcome, it focuses on people's thinking to help them reflect towards illumination. Alternatives allow one to explore possibilities and release ideas that are fresh and commit to new action.

Sixth, is to 'follow up.' Follow up stands for facts, emotions, encouragement, learning, implications and new goals. Cendana was for me a master in feedback. He gave feedback for great performance. I remember getting involved in an important project, I willingly stayed in the office three days and three nights, with little sleep in between. At the end of the period, as I was to leave for home to get my much needed rest Cendana gave me an envelope with some money with a note," to buy myself a bag and a pair of shoes." I was stunned by his generosity and felt a wave of satisfaction over a job done.

He also knew how to give feedback for below par performance. One time, I wanted his honest feedback on a project just completed. He quietly prefaced what he had to say. "I know you have always been on top of your class when you were studying. But in life there are times when we get an 80 percent. We should be happy just the same because the 20 percent we missed gives us valuable lessons for life. This is your score for this project."

Now you may think he was schooled in management and everything was orderly working with him. All those who worked in NMPC know what kind of creative chaos there was. But nobody minded this seemingly lack of organization, because under his gentle guidance we were growing, learning and delivering results. No, he was not schooled with a traditional master's degree in business but in good manners and gentle ways. What shaped him? It must be the gift of the Holy Spirit who guided kind soul to live the way he did.

As one of my former colleagues, Guia Albano Imperial writes in her prayer for Cendana, "If the earth has a bit more taste, more and better quality salt if you will, it is because of a quiet soul refiner's hand, Greg Cendana, who now has left us to leave up to a precious legacy. He has empowered us with that we realized just now with his passing. Let us not fail him and continue to pray to the Spirit who guided and inspired him to mold us the way he did. Sir would then lay down at the feet of the Lord a job so well done."

Finally, I want to extend my personal invitation to all Chief Executive Officers and their Teams to the CEO 1000 Summit, Sept. 27-28, Hotel Philippine Plaza. Please call 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898 for inquiries.

(The author is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company. Feedback at advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or call 892-2895. You may also check the author's blog at www.pinoyatwork.livejournal.com.)

The eyes of Jesus

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IN TODAY'S WORLD, WHAT IS REAL SEEMS TO BE ONLY what one can see, touch, smell, taste and hear. Thus, in almost all the areas of human life, sensory perception, particularly seeing, is primary and vital. The world is bombarded with pictures and images, graphics and visuals which dominate the thoughts, feelings and desires of almost everyone. The "what you see, you get" mentality seems to pervade people's minds. "To see is to believe" seems to be the guide for many, even in the realm of faith. Yet, we know that there are realities intractable by the senses which are as real as our senses and are perhaps even more valuable than those which our eyes could see.

These "invisible" but valuable elements are also present in the world of work, and could give greater worth to the worker than the big amount of profit gained by the very working itself. The inner feeling of self-respect and the sense of impeccable dignity borne by a lowly but virtuous janitor for example, may not be easily seen and valued by others; yet, these inner experiences are so real that the janitor could stand as tall as the managers or CEOs receiving hefty paychecks. His feelings of inner joy, peace and contentment as he puts his love and dedication in the job, may not be seen by others who would only notice his tired face and worn-out body. The sense of pride he feels within, knowing that he has contributed something to the growth of the company, is something more than what material reward can offer.

These and many more wonderful and rewarding inner experiences could happen to everyone who would look at the world of work with the eyes of Jesus. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

A little judge inside

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

IN YOUR PLACE OF WORK, DON'T YOU SOMETIMES FEEL that in order to focus on your job you need earplugs, blinders and gags? The workplace can get so polluted at times with so many unwholesome distractions. Gossip, idle chatter and lousy music enter your ears. Coworkers' quirky actions and appearances—even the way the girl across from you sits so carelessly—catch your eye. Cafeteria food can also "pollute," as was so graphically stated by a colleague trying to choose from a meat-heavy fare: "*Manang, patay na hayop na naman? Wala bang gulay?*"

Reflecting on today's Gospel, I agree with Jesus: nothing that enters us from outside can defile us, whether it enters our eyes, ears or mouth. We do have a built-in censor, a little "judge" inside of us that can control the effects of the things that trespass into our space. They can only harm if we don't use our little judge. For example, if we ignore the gossip, even if it's about us, it will stop, but if in our heart we value gossip we will entertain it and then indulge in gossip ourselves. That is what defiles—the malicious talk coming out of us. The girl across from you has difficulty keeping her knees together? Try to gently call her attention to it. If she doesn't change and you don't stop looking, the day will come when you'll say or do something uncharitable towards her that will defile you.

As for the animal carcass at the cafeteria buffet, your health-conscious comments may be cute reminders for carnivores with cholesterol problems, but if your vegetarianism makes you feel superior to the rest of us, then your pride will make you unclean despite your clean diet.Oh, by the way, that little "judge" inside of us—his name is Jesus, and his law is love. Get it? (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila @yahoo.com)

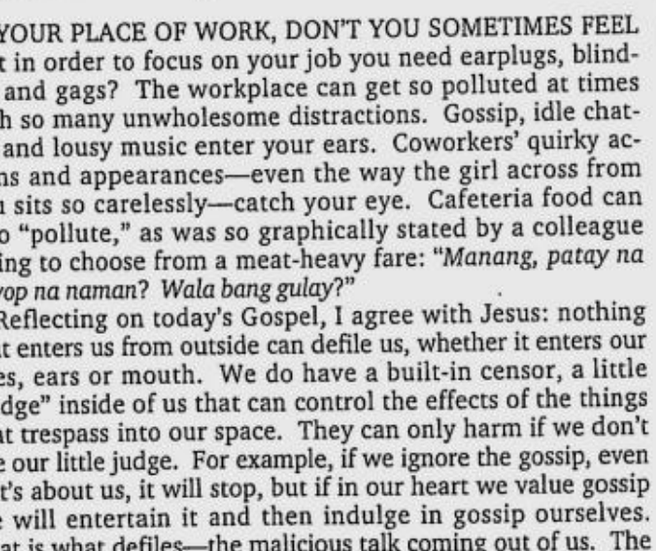

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Mk. 7, 1-8. 14-15, 21-23

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile"

Invigorate your career at fairs

DISCOVER THE CHOICES FOR A college degree at International Education Specialist's (Inter-Ed) 18th Career Counseling and Guidance Fair on Sept. 14-15 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Roxas Blvd. Pasay City.

For college students looking for higher learning, or mid-career employees who want to shift gears and do something else, the CEO or Career Education Option on Sept. 16 at the AIM Conference Center, Benavidez cor. Trasierra Sts., Legaspi Village Makati City may be for you. For the first time, Inter-Ed organizes an exhibit that is geared for graduate students who wish to take up higher level courses. It is also a very good sounding board for career changers, a venue for those who want to pursue a different career direction. Inter-Ed will highlight premiere universities such as UC Berkeley, University of San Francisco and University of Southern California and state and government universities in the UK, Australia and New Zealand. Admission is free and visitors to the CEO exhibit are encouraged to come between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on exhibit day to gain the fullest of benefits from the event.

For more information about the fair, contact Inter-Ed at 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City; telephones 819-1001, 819-1002; fax 810-2825, 811-8377; mobile phones (0916) 442-6120, (0928) 270-8527; or e-mail: intl_edu_specialists@pldtdsl.net.

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- CPA, between 28-35 years old
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- Proficient in spreadsheets and accounting conversions
- Knowledgeable in systems & software and financial reporting standards
- Willing to work long hours

SALES MANAGER (code: Ex/S)
- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Management, Business Administration or any other related courses
- Between 25-30 years old
- At least 2 years exposure in retail sales
- Excellent in planning, organizing and building a successful team
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Applications like Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

BRAND MANAGER (code: Ex/S)
- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Business Administration, Management or any related courses.
- Female, between 28-32 years old.
- At least 3-5 years Sales/Marketing experience
- With background in Retail and Network Management
- Adept in conceptualizing, implementing, and monitoring promotional activities and marketing strategies and promotional activities.
- Excellent in negotiation and can build strategic working relationship.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral.

RESTAURANT MANAGER (code: Ex/S)
- Bachelor's Degree in Hotel and Restaurant and Food Service Management or any related courses
- Female, between 24-30 years old
- At least 2 years exposure in restaurant and food service management
- Adept in conceptualizing, implementing, and monitoring promotional activities and marketing strategies and promotional activities.
- Familiar in licensing laws, health and safety regulations required by the government
- Good planning, organizing and decision making skills
- Customer focused and with good quality orientation.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

VISUAL DESIGN MANAGER (code: Ex/S)
- Bachelor's Degree in Advertising, Interior Design or Fine Arts
- At least 5 years managerial experience in Visual Merchandising in a retail company
- Proficient in Corel, Adobe, Illustrator, Photoshop, Freehand computer softwares
- Highly creative and innovative and willing to work long hours

TRAINING MANAGER (code: Ex/S)
- Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course
- Must have 2-3 years extensive experience in training design
- Able to conduct and administer in a retail environment
- Knowledgeable in Training Needs Analysis and current methods techniques
- Technical/Professional knowledge, communication, continuous learning, work standards, planning, organizing and customer oriented focus

AUDIT MANAGER (Code: Ex/S)
- College degree in Accounting, Certified Public Accountant or Certified Internal Auditor
- At least 5 years experience in external/internal audit, preferably w/ at least 2 years supervisory/managerial
- Knowledge of Standards or Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, Code of Ethics by IIA
- Must know policy interpretation, process evaluation and analysis, risk-driven audit techniques and methods, operations audit, information systems audit, risk assessment and fraud views
- Must be a good leader w/ excellent problem solving capabilities
- Must have strong independent judgment and a high level of critical thinking

HR SPECIALIST/RECRUITMENT (code: Ex/S)
- College graduate major in Psychology
- Not more than 28 years old, preferably female
- With at least 2 years experience in executive recruitment
- Above average oral and written communication skills and excellent interpersonal skills
- Applicants coming from a retail industry, call center or executive search firm will be given priority.

HR SPECIALIST/TRAINING (code: Ex/S)
- Bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science, Psychology and Social Science courses
- At least 1-2 years experience in training management
- Can work well under pressure, resourceful and creative
- Excellent communication skills – written and oral

CHEF DE PARTIE (code: Ex/S)
- Graduate of Culinary Arts, Hotel & Restaurant Management and /or any related courses.
- At least 2 years experience as Chef in an upscale restaurant.
- Must be a team player
- Highly creative and willing to work on flexible schedule.

FINANCE SUPERVISOR / FINANCE ANALYST (code: Ex/S)
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance or any related courses
- Between 22-35 years old and preferably a CPA
- Preferably with 2 years supervisory experience
- Proficient in spreadsheets and accounting conversions
- Knowledgeable in systems & software and financial reporting standards
- Willing to work long hours
- Good oral and written communication skills

TREASURY STAFF (code: RF)
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Business Administration
- At least 1 year relevant experience in treasury
- Computer literate
- Willing to work long hours
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

CASHIER (code: RF)
- Female, between 18-28 years old.
- At least 2nd year college level and with pleasing personality
- With at least 1 year experience in cashiering gained from reputable establishment; familiar with POS operation
- Willing to work long hours and even during weekends and holidays
- Good communication skills

SALES ASSOCIATE (code: RF)
- Well-groomed with pleasing personality
- With clear complexion and good set of teeth
- At least 2nd year college level
- Stands 5'4" in height for male and 5'2" for female
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Willing to work long hours and even during weekends and holidays
- Good communication skills

BEAUTY CONSULTANT/FRAGRANCE CONSULTANT (code: RF)
- Well-groomed with pleasing personality
- With clear complexion and good set of teeth
- At least 2nd year college graduate
- Stands 5'6" for male and 5'3" for female
- Willing to work long hours and even during weekends and holidays
- Good communication skills

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo to:

RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
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The successful candidate will be assisting in the overall support of the banking relationships while providing various investors targeting analysis and analytical support. He/She will also provide overall client support and work towards business development.

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- Must have a good understanding of company financials
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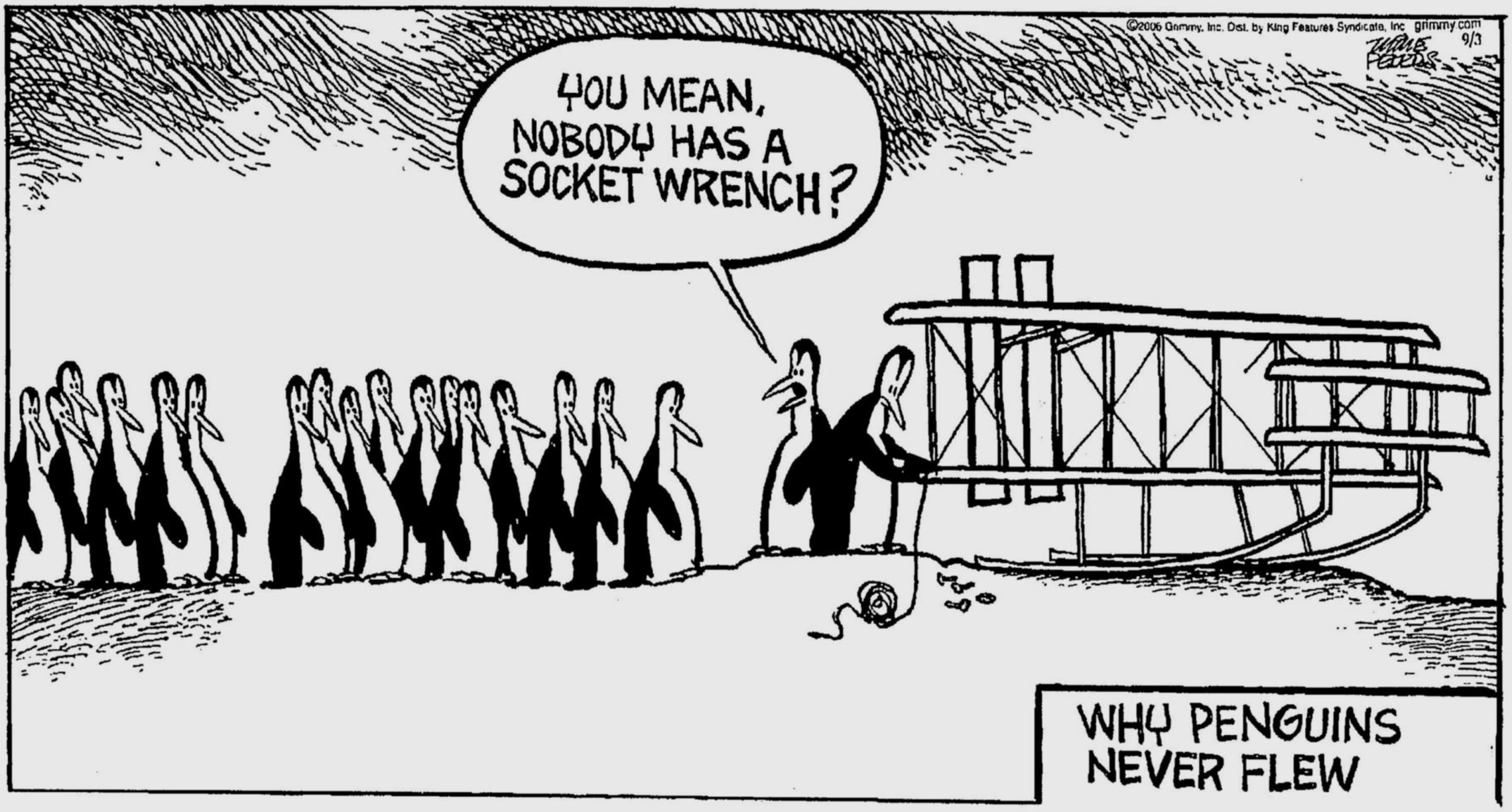

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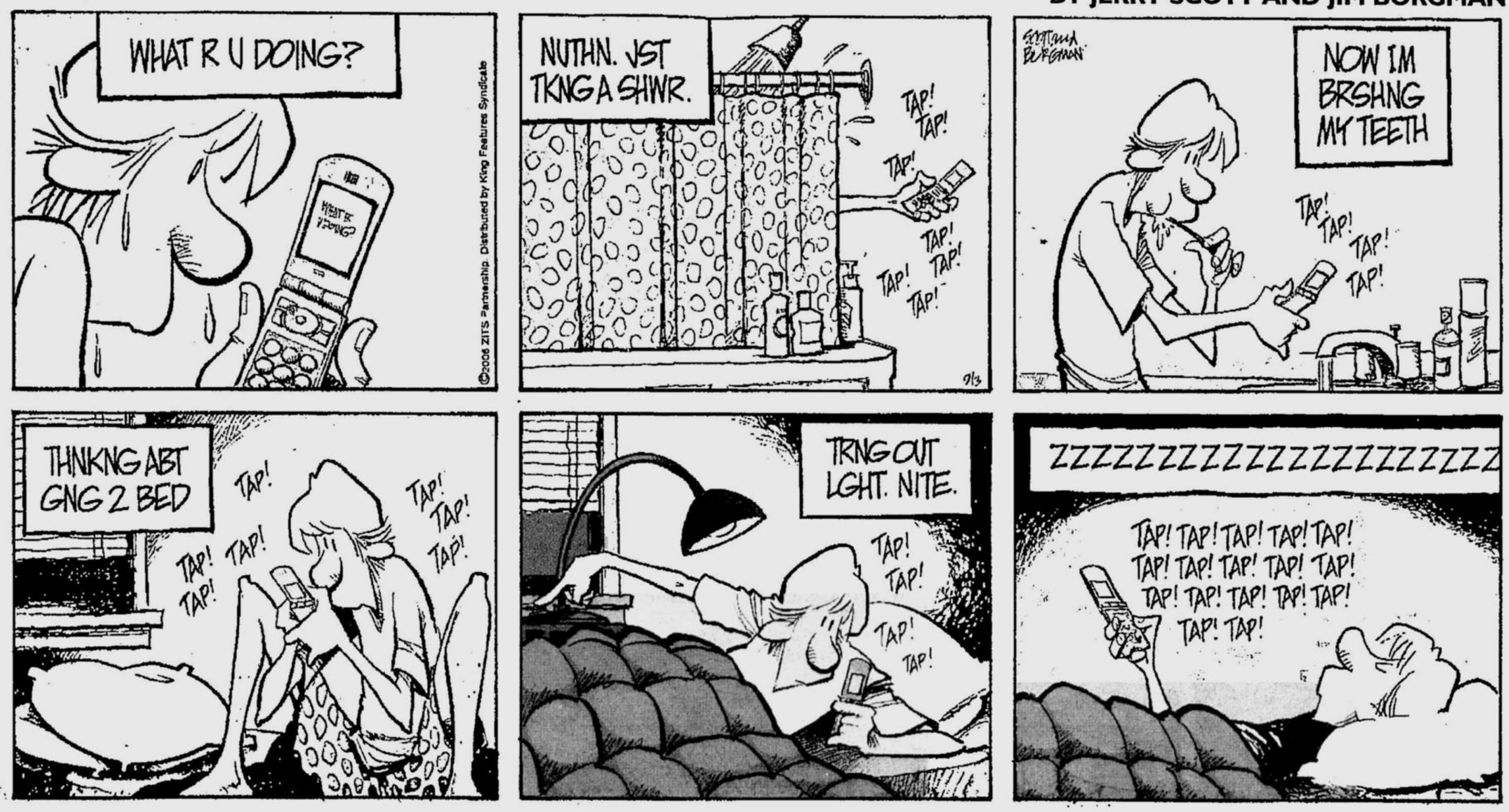

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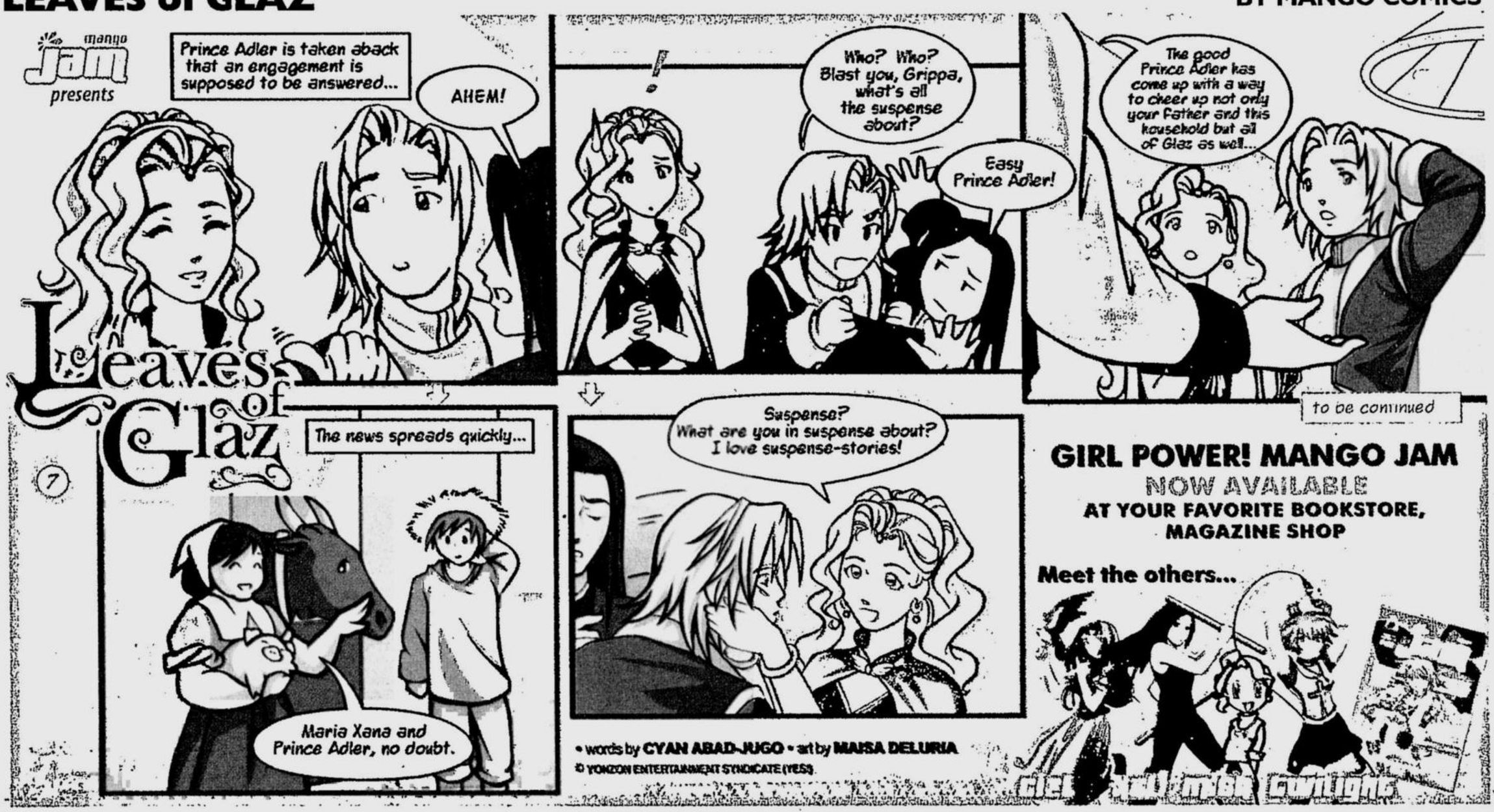

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September 3, 2006
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

This lady rider is UNDAUNTED

by the odds

She's had to go up against gender stereotypes, parental resistance, and financial obstacles to pursue her dream. But as pretty young race car driver Gaby de la Merced has proven, this lightning-fast, precise sport is all about patience and presence of mind, on and off the track

By Jasmine W. Payo
photograph by Romy Homillada

ARDON her initial ignorance of basic automobile facts.

While her precocity has surprised many, Formula 3 driver Gaby dela Merced admits she jumped into racing quite clueless.

"If you asked me then which one was the Toyota, Hyundai or Honda emblem—just to distinguish them—I wouldn't know. I had no idea. My fascination for cars grew only after I got into racing," she confesses.

As it turned out, local racing cliques rarely come across someone like Dela Merced.

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Education advocate, *p.4*
Benevolent achiever, *p.5*

Lady racer ... from page 1

"When I started off, it wasn't really because of an interest in cars. Usually you'd hear, 'I'm a gear-head, I like cars, I like the engines, that's why I ended up racing,'" she explains. "I was never born into a racing community. I didn't really know what I was talking about. I just kept saying, 'I want to race, I want to race!' I wanted to do that thing that I see on TV, and have fun."

Hyperactive

Like a perpetually hyperactive two-year-old, Dela Merced has tried innumerable sports, from soccer to basketball and martial arts. So it came as no surprise to her parents—businessman Norberto Jr. and former model Genevieve Baltao—when they learned that careening cars totally thrilled their teenage daughter.

"When I was in second year high school, I started bugging my parents. And they'd always say they'd get me a suit and a helmet when they went to the States," recalls Dela Merced.

"*May pagka*-ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) *ako noon*," she adds, laughing. "Months would pass, I'd forget because I was into a lot of other sports also. Then a year after, I'd remember, 'Hey, where's that suit?' Then I'd bug them again, and they'd say, 'Next year.'"

Interestingly, it wasn't even a real car race that fueled her excitement—just a pixelated version of it.

"I wanted to feel the G-force, I wanted to feel the speed because of video games. That's how it all began. I grew up with brothers, and they were really hooked on games, any type of computer games. So I first got hooked on racing video games, and it grew from there."

By the time Dela Merced was 17, her Formula fixation hadn't waned. So her father figured out how to sign her up in a Porsche roadshow clinic.

"One of my father's friends joined the roadshow, but decided to back out at the last minute. Then he asked my father if he wanted join it. The first person he thought of was me, so that I could finally get this thing off my mind, to just try it and stop bugging him about it."

Dela Merced's driving debut was surprisingly good enough to earn her the Best Driving Style award. Yet, she dismisses, "It was nothing really serious. It wasn't a race, it was just a roadshow."

The green light

Still, the stint convinced Dela Merced's father that there was actually some talent beneath her relentlessly curious mind. And the young, pretty driver knew she had gotten the green light when her father gave her a beat-up 1982 Toyota Starlet as a present for her 18th birthday.

"It was really like a racing car already. It just had one seat, there was no insulation. Everything was bare. It didn't even have windows anymore. But I fell in love with it. My friends were like, 'Yeah, it's nice,' but they wouldn't come within 10 feet of it, *baka ma*-tetanus *sila*, " she says with a giggle.

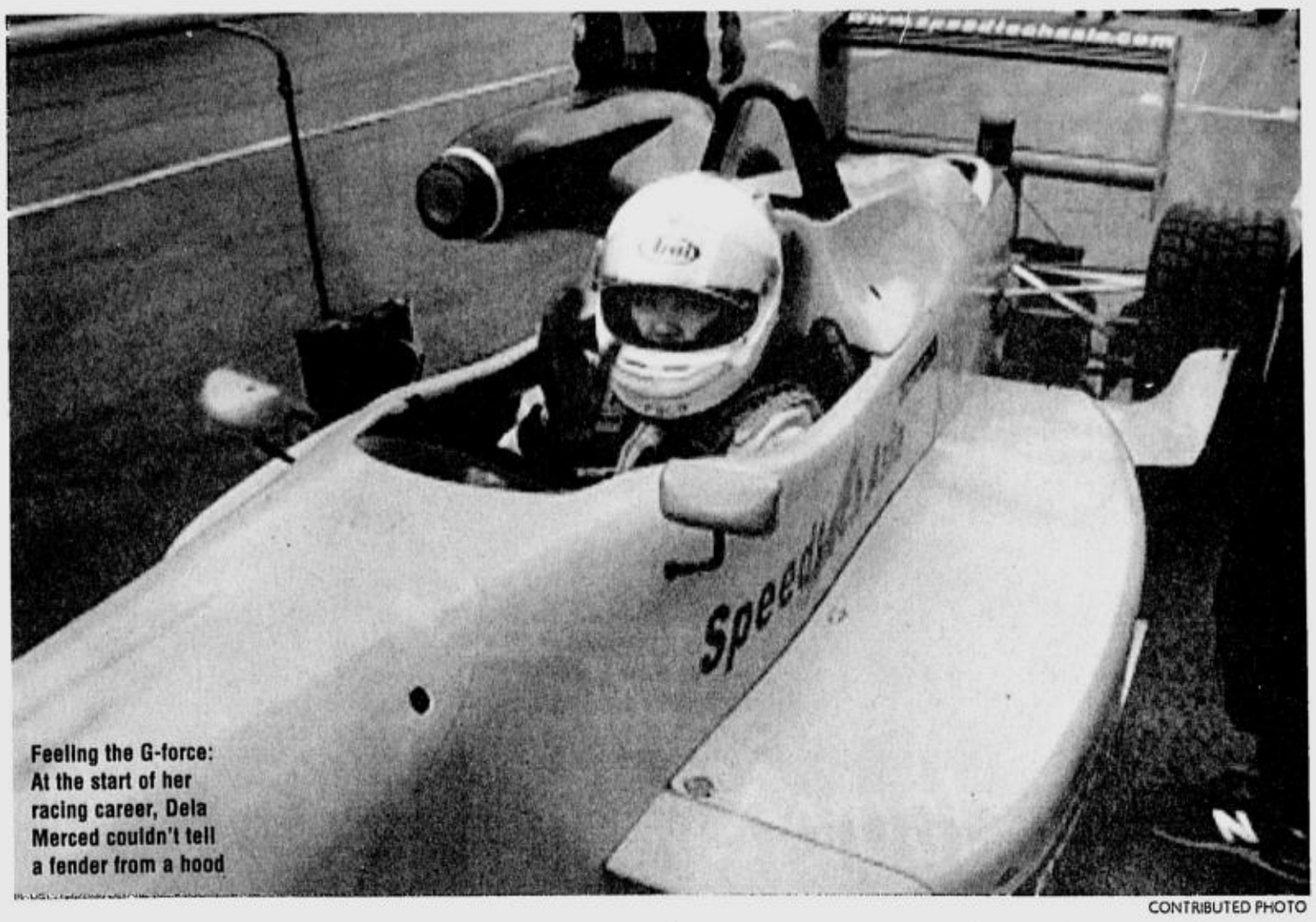
In the next few months, Dela Merced geared up for her first slalom race. It was an off-beat route, since most racers start with karting competitions. Yet she somehow found slalom perfect for a beginner like her.

"With other types of racing, you're only slower than the person in front. The fastest racer is always the person in front. Here, you're not up against anyone else. You're competing against yourself, against time. So it's like starting on an equal plane," she explains.

As much as the budding racer enjoyed stepping on the gas, it took some time before real ambition kicked in.

PDI FILE

Winning ways: Another award from the local racing circuit



Feeling the G-force: At the start of her racing career, Dela Merced couldn't tell a fender from a hood

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"When I got into it, my heart was there, but I still wasn't that committed," admits Dela Merced. "Races were held every Sunday, but I'd still go out on a Saturday night and sometimes be at the race with a hangover. Driving with a hangover, that's the worst thing."

Luckily, Dela Merced flushed the early demons out of her system. "That's when I realized that if I really wanted to win, I have to be serious about it. Eventually that's what I did. I started sleeping early. Racing taught me a lot of discipline."

Collecting wins

In 2000, Dela Merced bagged class wins in the Philippine Slalom Championship. The following year, she ruled the ladies' class of the same event.

Shifting gears, Dela Merced tried circuit racing in "Rung What You Brung," a kind of free-for-all race where you can drive whatever vehicle you want.

"You can use any type of car, and you go around the track three times. It's a solo thing, and you're judged by your time," she explains. "That's when I got the feeling that this is what I wanted to get into, circuit racing."

Dela Merced began to collect class wins and runner-up finishes in the National Touring Car Series for a couple more years. Although she impressed her family members and friends with her passion, none of them knew how hooked she was until the tryouts for the Formula BMW scholarship came along in 2004.

"I was just racing locally then. What interested me with BMW was the discipline. I have a friend who got into it a year before. He said the training was rigorous, it will really prepare you mentally. They'll teach you everything."

But even as Dela Merced had the luxury of living in a comfortable universe, her father still set financial limits for what he still considered her juvenile fascination.

"That was the year when my father told me that I already had enough back-up in the Philippines, and he won't be supporting me anymore," she recounts. "A big amount was needed just to try out. I needed to find sponsors. I couldn't find anyone to support me, because it was just for a tryout."

Whatever it took

Driven to chase down her first international venture, the 23-year-old Dela Merced felt she could pull it off on her own.

"I decided to do it, whatever it took. That's when I dipped into my life savings. I sold my bike, and my father got mad at me. He had been hoping it would just be a hobby. He was like, 'You're crazy, Gab!" I was even supposed to sell my car. My father stopped talking to me. A lot of people were very skeptical, because for one, I'm female. Then I'm already a bit old, and I don't have the money," she says.

The skepticism followed her to the Formula BMW tryouts in Malaysia. "As soon as I got there, people were already negative. They told me, 'You've never gone karting, you'll have a hard time,'" she recalls.

Impressively, Dela Merced was one of four drivers chosen after several demanding tests. As the first Asian female scholar, she was, needless to say, ecstatic. But reality hit her quite fast.

"BMW will train you and do everything, but you do have to look for sponsors in your own country," she explains. "When I got back, my father talked to me and said, 'You're happy now, you can get back to what you're doing.' And I was like, 'By the way, I'm going to accept the scholarship.' He got mad again and asked me, 'What happens if you can't pay? They're going to run after me, and even I don't have the money for that.' I thought we'd find a way. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to race the whole season. But it was nice, it was a great experience." Dela Merced was in Malaysia for two months in 2004 to learn the ropes of racing from the pros.

Self-promotion

Hoping to keep her Formula dreams on track, Dela Merced had to master the art of self-promotion. With her solid credentials, she knew she had something going for her. Still, she found racing in the concrete jungle a lot tougher.

"The money you need for a Formula race is 10 times the amount of money you'll need in a car race," she laments. "What's difficult is not the racing itself. It's after the race. You have to run around, chase sponsors. You're practically selling yourself. But when you get the money, it's all worth it."

Dela Merced got everything down pat this year when she made the jump to Formula 3, an important step for drivers to reach Formula 1, the pinnacle of racing. "I'm guaranteed to compete in all the races this year," she says happily.

As calculated as her sharp turns on the race course was Dela Merced's efforts to make herself more visible and high-profile in order to gather support. When Cream Silk asked her to be part of its "Pink Power" ads—a slick campaign on women excelling in male-dominated fields—she readily agreed. All for her racing, of course. "That Cream Silk ad, it's what's going to pay for my last race!" she says.

Still getting the jitters

On the homefront, Dela Merced has also smoothened things out with her parents.

"They're now very supportive," she happily notes. "They watch my races. My mother goes with me in my international races. She's calmed down a lot. She's learned to trust the safety equipment that's there."

Yet Dela Merced herself still gets the jitters, even if she's already on her sixth year of racing.

"No other sport has made me feel like my heart wanted to jump out of my body," she admits. "It's different from any sport I've tried. It's ironic that, for something that's so fast, quick and precise, you must actually have patience and discipline. You'd think you have to be rugged and aggressive. But it's all about being calm."

Right now, Dela Merced continues to function like a well-oiled machine. Aside from racing, she has pursued other activities like flag football, ultimate frisbee and adventure racing. She's also back in school at the UP Open University. "I had trouble balancing my racing and studies back then," she explains.

It has been a long road, indeed, for someone who started out not being able to tell a fender from a hood.

"Racing is one of the most gratifying things," Dela Merced says. "I've always been passionate about what I do. And that's how you should live life, no matter how ridiculous things seem. It's not about showing the world, but showing yourself that this is what you want, this is where you want to go, and that you can find ways to get there." Q

Suegra Querida

In memory of Bertha M. Bermudez

You and I were transplanted here
cut at the stem and soaked in water
until we grew fragile roots
thin like capillaries that transport
blood and memory
from vital organ to vital
organ. It makes me wonder
sometimes when we get sick
with fevers and stubborn allergies,
infections that defy
modern American medicine,
is it that our bodies are only aching
for the fragments of us we left behind?

We trade food like long-kept secrets
illicit with flavor that blaspheme
our mundane immigrant existence
"*Muy sabrosa*," "*Ta bueno!*" "*Riquissimo*"
We speak the tongues of our colonizers
strain our necks to catch
meanings between us like butterflies
in a meadow of aluminum pots and
linoleum countertops

Your wooden spoon and fork
painted with generic fruits
stark against the white walls
are smaller than my mother's;
but they bring me home
the way your fried *empanadas* crunch
in my mouth, your *cesina* like *tapa*
we dip in vinegar and garlic,
and your *bacalao* becomes the story
my beloved grandfather used to tell
when he'd drop salty dried fish
into a pot of boiling water, saying
it was the worn sole of his favorite shoe.

Lani T. Montreal

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by Mitzi Duque Ruiz
photographs by Ryan Lim

Charlie Ysmael and Maso Diez may have made their marks singing with hot bands in the '80s, but as frontliners for the award-winning Spirit of '67, they've had no problem crossing musical eras to get their audience on their feet

From the '80s to the '60s, these live band veterans have made a fun leap backward

Real pros: Maso and the boys, before Charlie joined the band

PDI FILE

IN EACH gig that retro band Spirit of '67 plays, usually to a dance floor-full of party people, listeners often get transported back to the past, not just by the music reminiscent of carefree younger days, but by a couple of familiar faces onstage. And when a song calls for a solo from either of the lead singers, some swear they know that voice from somewhere, some time ago. It's not uncommon for people to ask, "Could that be...?" or "That can't possibly be..."

"People who knew me in the '80s and '90s do a double take when they see me singing with the band," says Charlie Ysmael who, to Gen X minds, is the familiar lead vocalist of the bands Arenarr and The Breed. He joined the country's top retro band a little over a year ago, a move that may have raised some hard-core rockers' eyebrows. But Charlie doesn't only look like he's having a blast—he actually looks comfortable singing retro. "I tell them that the music we play is what I consider 'roots.' Without it, I would never have stumbled across the later stuff that I got into."

Iconic band

It seemed more like a natural progression for Maso Diez, recording artist and former lead female singer for the iconic '70s band, the Hotdog. Maso, who has been the lone female vocalist for Spirit of '67 since December 1998, has had a long list of stints with top professional musical groups.

"I was still in high school when I started with Hotdog. I remember how they would pick me up after class to make it in time for some school gig, and I would have to perform in my uniform," she says with a laugh. When they decided to take the Manila Sound to the US, Maso chose to stay here.

"I had just passed the UPCAT, and I didn't want to waste the privilege of a UP education." She continued to sing with a succession of bands throughout college, recalling how she would go to the College of Music during the day and sing in lounges and bars at night. "*Ang hirap*. Some days if I wasn't too tired I would record demos and commercial jingles."

Riding with the trends as the years passed, Maso did her stint as solo female lead in jazz bands, with Emil Mijares in 1981 and Eddie Katindig in 1982, then on to a relatively young group composed of Tateng and Henry Katindig the year after. In 1984, she rejoined Hotdog, performing regularly at the then-popular Alibi Bar of Regent Hotel in Manila (now the Heritage Hotel), then ended the decade with the Hiyas Band, touring with them around Asia.

She went solo in 1991, and launched two Gold albums with hits like "*Kailanman*," the Filipino adaptation of Ted Ito's Japanese hit, "*Saigono Iiwake*," and Rene Garcia's "*Hindi Ko Sinsadya*." Then she hit the live band scene again, via the resurrected Manila Band, the girl group Chang, and once again, Hotdog, this time recording the hit "Viagra" with them.

Serendipity

Joining Spirit of '67 was, for Maso, "more serendipity than anything else." Invited by the band's drummer, Arnold Austria, to pinch-hit at the last minute for their female vocalist, she was asked to officially join the band after the second night. "They needed someone who was very familiar with their songs and could sing that very night without any rehearsals. Of course I was flattered. I was also actually amused at the enthusiasm of the members—old high school friends in their fifties, dedicated to making good music reminiscent of their era."

Her only reluctance in joining was the fact that she had to sing songs from a specific era. "My repertoire is so wide, from jazz to country, alternative to techno, with R&B as my favorite, I wasn't sure I would be happy signing songs from one era only."

Charlie's career in music began in 1983, right after college. "I formed a few amateur bands before settling with Arenarr in 1986." After they disbanded, he bounced back with The Breed, which performed and recorded an album between 1989 and 1998. "That time was what I consider the peak of my career. That was all-out Charlie Y, no frills, everything was real." He never really left the music scene although, aside from starting a family with wife Ika Roxas (they now have three children), he has had his share of day jobs, holding positions in marketing and sales and working with radio stations RJFM, KissFM, and NU 107. He even co-anchored the RPN-9 news with Cathy Santillan.

Maso Diez: "The music transcends time"

Charlie would jam with Spirit of '67 on several occasions during their SRO gigs at Dish, back when it was still at the Power Plant. "I had always admired the style of Spirit of '67, the way they communicated with the audience, their choice of songs, and I always thought that I could gel with the band if I was part of it. When Cholo Santiago (one of the band's original Atenean members) decided to leave, I got a call from Maso asking if I was interested to try out. So I jumped at the opportunity," he says.

Not just Atenistas

"We sought him out in one of his gigs at Heckle and Jeckle, and we thought he could blend with the group, even if he was from La Salle," says Sonny Alvendia, the band's manager, who was instrumental in forming the group for their Ateneo High School Silver Jubilee presentation in 1992. "Of course, today, with the originals outnumbered by our relatively new members, who are not from our high school, it's no longer about being an Atenista band. And since Maso and Charlie and the rest of the members, except for vocalist Bimbo Santiago and bassist Jake Arellano, are all veterans in the local live music scene, it's now about giving the best professional performances, which our audience has come to expect from us."

Having had the advantage of time with the band, Maso has incorporated the hectic schedule of rehearsals and meetings and the band's own culture into her lifestyle. Apart from being the lone female vocalist, she is also the musical director, overseeing the line-up for every set and making impromptu changes in their repertoire, which she bases on the feel of the audience on particular nights. "The guys might also say I am the band's number one critic and trouble shooter."

Contribution

As a frontliner, Charlie is expected to deliver most of the spiels, which he considers his contribution to the group. "One major adjustment that I had to make was singing back-up. In all my other bands, I was the lead singer so I never really had to learn how to look for another voice. But it's challenging. Then there's being the new guy in the group. You have to get used to everybody's style, both on and off the stage. Oh, and I really don't have a problem working with Ateneans," the lone Lasallista says in answer to an obvious question. "It does not affect my performance at all, and yes, I get along with all the members."

One of the biggest challenges for all newbies in the group is gaining acceptance from the huge number of groupies, "friends of Spirit," who follow them from venue to venue, mostly Baby Boomers who are now professionals and entrepreneurs, and who don't mind the cost that comes with the lifestyle. "I am even close to some of them. So far, I've never been compared to any other female singer," Maso says.

Tough act to follow

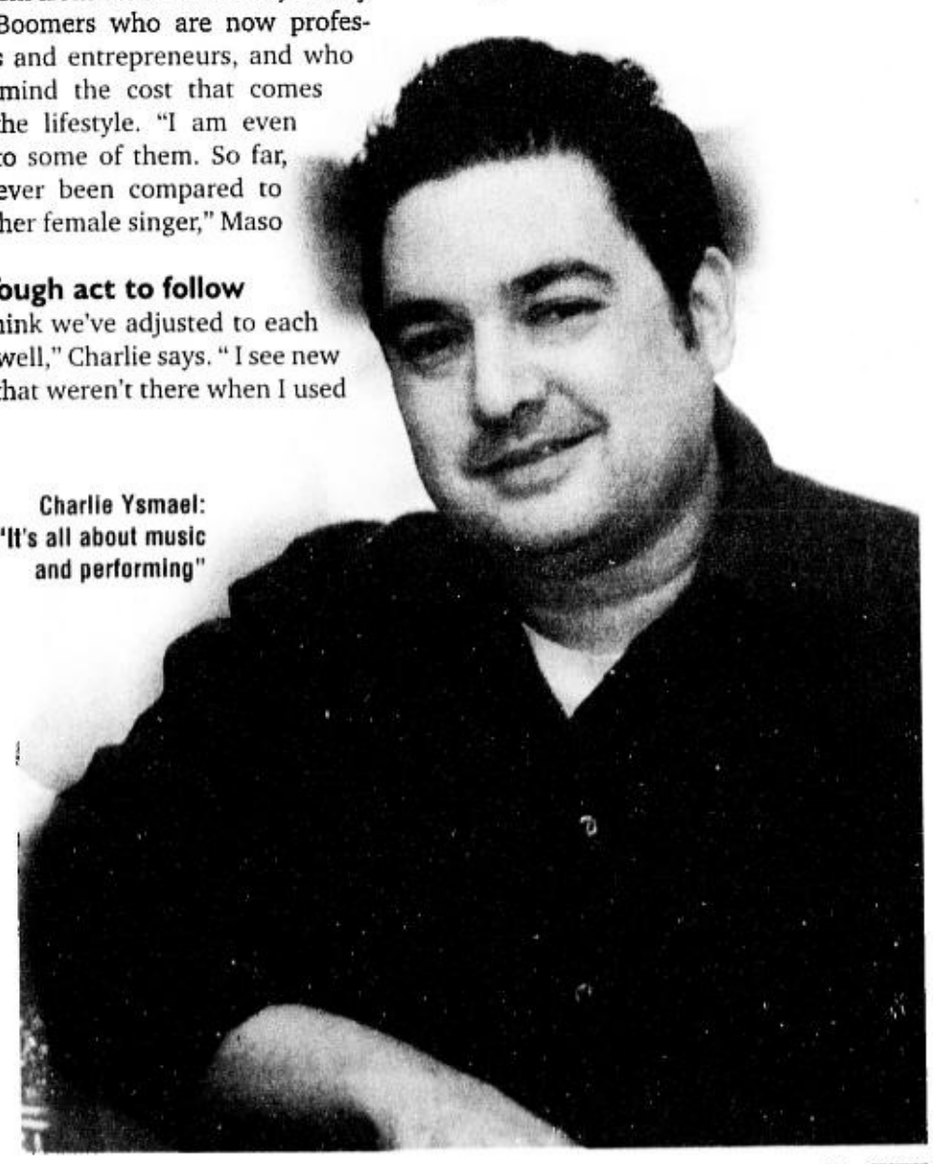
"I think we've adjusted to each other well," Charlie says. "I see new faces that weren't there when I used to jam regularly with the band in 2001-2002. I replaced a major personality in the band, Cholo—great singer, great rapport with his audience and he had a huge following. It was a tough act to follow. I am still working on it, but I think it's gone well these past 13 months."

And how—they've received Aliw Awards for three straight years, and just this August, the band was elevated to the foundation's Hall of Fame as Best Performer in Hotels, Music Lounges, and Bars.

Being associated with an oldies band, even if both have yet to hit their golden years, was never a problem for the two singers. "One good thing about music is, it transcends time," Maso says. "After all this time in the business, one of the lessons I've learned is that it is more fulfilling to make people happy than to satisfy yourself."

For Charlie, it's all about music and performing. "You know, I never really thought about how long I've been doing this! Gosh, it's actually been 20 years since I performed my first professional gig! As long as the audience is around and I still find excitement, I don't see an end in sight for this career of mine."

Spirit of '67 performs on Tuesdays at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental, and on Thursdays at the Conway's Bar of the Makati Shangri-La.



Charlie Ysmael: "It's all about music and performing"

by Alya B. Honasan
photographs by Romy Homillada

From Itbayat to Sitangkay, she's using TV to open minds

The Knowledge Channel's Rina Lopez-Bautista didn't quite know what she was getting into when she first zoomed in on public school education as an advocacy. Now, the work has become her life's passion—and the global community is taking note

Looking over their shoulders: With daughter Margarita

AT HOME with four-year-old daughter Margarita, Rina Lopez-Bautista is relaxed and nurturing, like a typical young mom lounging in her comfortable home. You never would have guessed that this young-looking president of the Knowledge Channel Foundation actually has an 18-year-old son. Or that she was up this morning at 4 a.m., when the house was quiet and Margarita was asleep, to prepare a speech. Or that she has actually been all over the archipelago, from Itbayat to Sitangkay, pushing her life-changing advocacy: bringing television to the most remote barangays as an educational tool.

Rina may have had access to the cable facilities of the Lopez-owned Sky Cable when she started out in 1999, but her own accomplishments—in a nutshell, making the worlds of some 2.7 million Filipino children bigger—have gone beyond working with the available logistical support. When she recently received the Parangal Lingkod Sambayanan from the Ateneo de Manila University, Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres praised her for "providing programs nationwide, including and especially in far-flung areas of Mindanao, by way of media and technology and through sheer political will..."

"The original idea was to use the infrastructure that we had, through Sky Cable and ABS-CBN, to reach the communities where we are," says Rina. She had been doing purchasing for the cable network, later handling the home shopping network, and had been brainstorming with now Sky Cable head Carlo Katigbak on how they could use the access for public service. "We decided to focus on education for public schools, but we hadn't realized how grave the problem of the public educational system was. Then I did the research, and realized, *grabe*, it was something else."

One teacher, 153 students

Among her discoveries was that the student-to-book ratio ranged from one book for every two students to as few as one for every seven. In some places, there is one teacher for every two students; in others, there's one for every 153.

"The Department of Education and Culture is trying its best, but given the archipelagic nature of the country and the resources we have, it's really difficult," says Rina. "Government spends about P7,000 per student per year. In more developed countries, that could reach P100,000 a year. In our national achievement test scores, our average is 30 to 50 percent, not even passing. In our international test scores in science and math, we rank no. 41 out of 45 countries, just ahead of places like Ghana and Botswana."

It's this urgency that has sent Rina on the road. She's out several times a month, and can travel—via plane, boat, car or carabao—to different places on a few days' notice. "We were even doing this during the manhunt for Janjalani," she recounts. "Just last month some of our people got caught in a crossfire."

Since there are many schools and students outside the Sky Cable area, the Knowledge Channel has started partnering with cable operators outside the network, now numbering more than 100. When there's no cable, Rina goes a step further and installs satellite dishes independently. That's aside from producing the local shows that are beamed, along with carefully chosen English programs, to classrooms north to south.

Big deal

It's an ironic mission for a woman who took a while to find her path. As ABS-CBN Broadcasting head honcho and Rina's cousin Gabby told her, "Wow, Rina, you've really found it." To which she responds, "Doing this has become such a passion."

Rina was born and raised in Manila, the third of eight children of Oscar Lopez, chairman of the Lopez Group, and Connie Rufino. "Education was a big deal in my family," Rina recalls. "My dad really believes in it." But the petite *morena* was also very sports-minded as a child, playing varsity basketball for Assumption and getting into swimming and track-and-field, as well. In terms of field of study, however, she was ambiguous. "What did I want to be? I only wanted to be me, the best me I could be, with no real ambitions."

She tried out a semester of biology, planning to become a doctor, "until I realized I couldn't stand the sight of blood," she says with a laugh. She studied psychology at De La Salle, but it was not an inevitability that she would work with her dad. "For us, it was really about where we could find ourselves." Although her work schedule nowadays only allows for time in her home gym with a personal trainer, she still goes on regular hikes with her 76-year-old father. "I think I got my work ethic from him," she says. "When he arrives from a trip, he's there in the office at once, and it makes you feel guilty! One way I am like him, though, is that I also get a consensus and recommendations from the people I work with—but I decide."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rules of engagement: In local garb, standing fourth from right, with students in Tawi-Tawi

How to learn

A first marriage didn't work out, but her 18-year-old son from that marriage, Dan, is leaving for schooling abroad. She became a mom again to Margarita at age 41 after marrying businessman Rudy Bautista. Rina takes the role of being hands-on mom quite seriously. "I can't help looking over my children's shoulders and making sure they do their homework." The educational system in the Philippines is fine as far as value formation is concerned, she believes. "But it could stand to be more open, and more about teaching kids how to learn, rather than what to learn. Later on, in the working world, that's more important."

Rina admits she got frustrated in the early years of the foundation. "Especially when we were looking for grants and sending out proposals. It was never an automatic yes. Otherwise, working with teachers and principals and superintendents is just a matter of being able to show them the benefits of the program. These last few years have been a learning experience, and one of our learnings is that we really have to engage the community for the school to benefit from it, and to ensure the security of the infrastructure. We have to create a sense of ownership—and that's when magic happens."

For the children whose lives have been changed by exposure to the Knowledge Channel, there is palpable evidence of such change in their better grades and increasing facility with the English language. "But for the students, it's really the hope that this infrastructure brings. It empowers them, makes them more assertive. Then they also learn that there are people outside of their community who think of them and want to help them."

Getting to Oprah

Looking ahead, Rina would like to focus on producing more programs that public school students need. "Plus, there's raising as much awareness as we can get locally and internationally."

On September 7, she will be at the 59th annual United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) and NGO conference to address a roundtable session on "Science and Technology for Education." "Then hopefully, we'll get to Oprah!" Rina exclaims, quite serious. "Hey, I've written her already, and everybody is just six degrees away, right?"

Receiving the award from Ateneo, Rina says, was a moment of both pride and humility. "All throughout the awarding ceremony, I was asking myself how I got to be up on that stage, in the company of luminaries in their respective fields. I guess I achieved something, yet I was still just me. It took a while, but it hit me: God has a mission for me. He is using me to call my friends and their friends to make a difference in other people's lives. Just imagine a country where everyone who can, works so that others may have better lives."

What keeps her and her staff of 30 going, Rina says, is "knowing that these students need it. I don't know, it's nothing earth-shaking. But it's part of my system. Knowing that we've gone this far, and seeing the impact on kids and the teachers and the community—that's really what drives us. That we can really make a difference, and we *have* to make a difference."

This overachieving 'probinsyano' thinks making a difference is still the best self-affirmation

by Ruel S. De Vera

US-based lawyer Francis Padua-Papica regularly goes home to Camarines to give poor kids a chance to enjoy the breaks he's had through his eponymous foundation

Payback time: Papica, right, poses with some of the kids his foundations are keen on helping

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

WHAT is it that drives achievers? Is it something genetic or spiritual? More to the point, what is it that transforms prodigies into success stories later in life?

Francis Padua-Papica believes it is something more homebound. "It was a product of good upbringing," the 38-year-old lawyer explains. "I give full credit to my parents for pushing me to succeed even at an early age. I somehow always had the foresight of knowing it was necessary to work hard, aim high, dream big and have fun in the process."

If you're cynical and consider what Papica just said to be platitudes or clichés, then take a deep breath. Ready?

By the time Papica graduated from high school at St. Paul Academy in Goa, Camarines Sur in 1985, he was the grade school, and later high school, valedictorian, the student council president, cadet corps commander, the Paulinian of the Year, the Jose Rizal Gold Eagles Awardee for best Boy Scout, and president of the Kabataang Barangay. He also played piano in school and led the drum and bugle corps.

Gotten your breath back? Good. Read on.

After relocating to the United States for college, Papica graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1989 with a degree in Art History, cum laude. He was also the departmental awardee, a Ford Foundation and Mellon Foundation scholar, the Chancellor Marshall Awardee for service, a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society and the president of the Samahang Pilipino.

Wow. Wait, that's not all. Seriously.

Poor but deserving

In 1991, Papica earned his Juris Doctor degree from Syracuse University in 1991, cum laude, as a Holcomb Scholar, a scholar of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Executive Editor of the Syracuse Journal of International Law and Commerce, and a member of the Syracuse Student Senate.

Which just about brings us to the present.

Papica is currently based in Los Angeles as a junior partner of the Nordstrom, Steele, Nicoletter, Blythe & Jefferson law offices, where he handles lawsuits. By the time you're reading this article, he will be winding up a three-day visit to the Philippines.

Papica is often in the country leading the work of the Francis Padua-Papica Foundation, Inc. (FPPFI), a non-profit organization he founded in 1997 to help poor but deserving Filipino students. In fact, he was just here a month prior to this visit for the same reason. By the way, he also received the Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. in 2004 for his community work.

The eldest of three children born to the late dentist Dr. Juan Pinto Papica and retired pharmacist Maria Padua Papica, Francis John Melvin Padua-Papica grew up in Camarines Sur. "I thoroughly enjoyed the closeness of friendships often found in small towns, the simple business of rural life and the comforts of family," he says.

Part of that experience was being an honor student early. "It was all a matter of priorities," Papica says. "During school hours, academics reign supreme. After school hours, the real fun begins." This balancing act took up a lot of his time but also trained him to be focused.

At 17, he moved to the US to rejoin his family. "Once I accepted the fact that it was a new life, a new world, adjustment came really easy," he recalls. The major change occurred when Papica's father passed away in 1987. "I give lots of credit to my mom for singlehandedly ensuring the future of us kids by working two jobs," Papica says, adding that he also began working to help out. "I had to face up to the fact that I was the oldest in the family."

More assertive

At UCLA, he continued to do well though he needed to become even more assertive in speaking up in the classroom. "Inasmuch as English was not my primary language, I had to make a conscious effort to fit in," he notes.

When the time came to choose a vocation, he was a bit conflicted. He was torn between medicine and law. In fact, he had been admitted to the University of Santo Tomas for pre-med and the University of the Philippines for law back in the Philippines. After a meaningful chat with the guidance counselor and several career tests, he chose law. "Looking back now, I believe I made the right decision," Papica says.

This high power lawyer may have been in the States for over 20 years now, but he steadfastly remains a Filipino citizen. Yes, seriously. "I am one hundred percent Filipino in mind and deed," he says. "I am also a proud *probinsyano*."

Lest you think it's all just ego-tripping, Papica has put his work where his name is. In 1997, he founded the FPPFI in his hometown of Goa. All he wanted to do was make a difference, he says. "God has blessed me with so much, the least I could do was give a little in return." He didn't think the Foundation would grow so big, but he is happy it has happened.

Fitting goal

The FPPFI pursues projects that promote leadership, a fitting goal for someone like Papica who had been class president from Grade One to Fourth Year. "We need to develop strong, intelligent and morally upright leaders," Papica clarifies. "Good leaders are agents of change." One large part of the FPPFI's push is its scholarship program, which provides full or partial help to outstanding student leaders engaged in service. This is with the four-year FPPFI College-Bound Program. Then, there is the FPPFI Leadership Achievement Award for graduating high school students. Aside from that, the Foundation pursues literacy and leadership programs, medical missions and the like. Every year, the Foundation sponsors the Youth Leadership Conference, which gathers student leaders from all over the country. Grouped by respective districts, the students draw up projects (livelihood, for one), with each chosen project receiving a startup fund.

Seems too good to be true, but Papica is endlessly optimistic about what he's setting out to do. He is sanguine about choosing to name the Foundation after himself. "I needed to come up with a name people could identify with, and I figured, I grew up in Goa and they know me there," Papica explains. "I figured people would support and identify more with a foundation they know was started by one of them, a true Goano, a true Bicolano."

No ego trip

He stresses it isn't an ego trip on any level. "People ask me if I'm running for office, and it has crossed my mind but I don't see it on the horizon," he admits. "I started the Foundation with the genuine desire to make a difference." That means commuting between the US and the Philippines regularly, about four to six times a year on the average. "I always come here on Foundation business so I never really get to go on a real vacation," he says. But his favorite destination is never in question. "I would love to go back and settle here."

Traveling is something he does enjoy in the little free time he has. "I just came back from Europe for the World Cup," he says, adding that he's brushing up on his Spanish for a South American sojourn next year. "After that, I intend to learn French," he says. Papica has also been a scuba diver for the past eight years and avidly plays golf and tennis. See, he even multi-tasks when he's having fun.

Long-term, he does have plans of marrying and settling down. "Perhaps in the next two years," he hints. But mostly Papica is focused on the Foundation. His current big project is the "*Mga Kuwentong Pambata ng* Papica Foundation," a national short story writing tilt for children aged 6-12. The winner gets published in a book, gets a boxful of books and P10,000.

Gratitude

In November, the Foundation will hold a fundraising concert. "Every single cent generated from those two events will be earmarked solely for the purchase of books and school supplies for the next school year," he says. "Nothing will be retained by the Foundation." In February, the FPPFI conference rolls out yet again. And so on.

Papica says what really keeps him going is "the gratitude from the countless kids who write and e-mail me thanking me for what the Foundation has done for them. Knowing that I have made a difference in the life of a young person is the best self-affirmation and recognition I could think of."

Papica's struggle is also one against cynicism, pessimism and lip service. He has a list of goals that is longer and more impressive than his resume and understands what it asks of him. "It is my life's destiny," he says simply.

After just three days here, he will be returning to the US. But not to worry, Francis Padua-Papica will be back soon, he promises: "The Philippines is still my home."

For more information about the Foundation and the contest, please log on to www.papicafoundation.com.

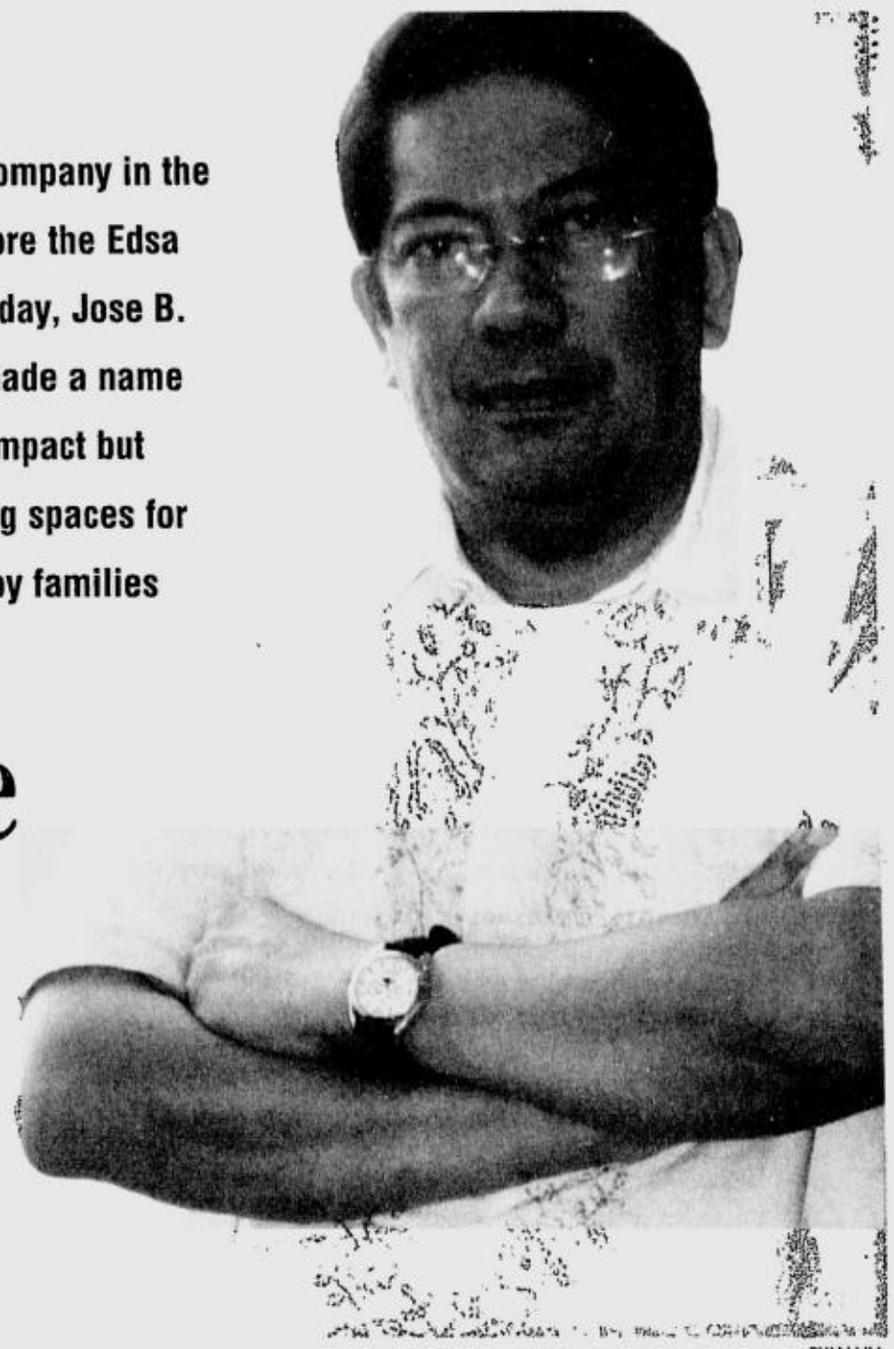
"Good leaders are agents of change," Papica stresses during a FPPFI conference

Businesswatch

by Marian C. Martin

An ambassador of optimism for Philippine real estate

He started his company in the dark days before the Edsa Revolution. Today, Jose B. Antonio has made a name building compact but luxurious living spaces for smaller Pinoy families



RYAN LIM

IF THERE'S anything real estate magnate Jose B. Antonio knows, it's how to make something big out of something small. The chairman of Century Properties Group and the country's special envoy to China was only 15 when he started in his first job, as a systems analyst who also delivered warehouse receipts while his grandfather, Ramon Antonio Sr., served as the first Filipino executive at the Bank of the Philippine Islands. Jose's father Ramon Jr. became vice president of the bank.

While other scions of Filipino executives were cosseted in the privileges of the middle class then, Jose's grandfather and father wanted to teach the young Jose the value of work. "It was a form of training, of value formation and character building," he recalls. "I didn't have to work, but my grandfather was my mentor. He wanted me to know *how* to work."

The real work world

From this early exposure to the real work world, Antonio learned people skills and the importance of cultivating relationships with his peers and bosses. It was knowledge that he added to his education at San Beda College, from where he graduated cum laude with a degree in Commerce, and later to his graduate studies at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and Harvard Business School. Despite his early filial obedience to his father and grandfather, Antonio felt banking offered too regimented a career path for him and chose his own, working for a British company, Warner Barnes. Antonio considers this early non-conformity a strength. "I am a contrarian by nature. I look at what's happening and I say, why don't we do it a different way?"

Jose's voracious reading of biographies showed him that the wealth of many of the most affluent families in the world is based on land ownership. He invested in real estate, founding Century Properties in 1986 when conventional business sense would have counseled caution. It was only six days before the People Power Revolution, and the economy painted a bleak picture of the country's future.

Antonio recalls, "It was a low point in the Philippines' economic history. But I said, why don't we start something in the country? How low can we go? The country was in the pits. We didn't even believe in ourselves." With only six people on the payroll, Century Properties bought property in Makati for P1 million, later selling it for 30 times its original value.

Gut feeling

Antonio relied on his gut feeling that the market would come up sooner or later, bouncing back after five years of stagnation. Antonio relates, "It was tough making ends meet that time. I had to sell personal assets just to pay people. For nine months out of 12 we lost money in 1986." Antonio also ran a brokerage operation, helping people dispose of, and find, property.

But Century Properties gave Antonio enough opportunities to try out his own maverick ideas. As families shrank with children marrying and moving out, they began looking for smaller homes requiring less maintenance. Century Properties invested in a series of condominiums such as Le Grand, Le Maison, and Le Metropole, building a total of 25 condominiums. Access to transportation and services became the prime considerations behind the location of each condominium. Century was the first developer in the Fort Bonifacio area, with a building called Essensa, which was named the best residential condominium in Asia in the year 2000 by Asiaweek Magazine.

The small home office

Ideas sprang up even when Antonio was in a doctor's clinic for consultation. He put up the series of medical plazas in response to the problem of doctors overcrowding and sharing clinics in premiere hospitals.

The trend towards home-offices among a certain category of professionals gave rise to the Soho developments, which Century Properties began building in 2003. Anchored on people's increasing dependence on the Internet to conduct their business and work, the SoHo, i.e. the small home office, paved the way for the Century Properties' Bel Air Sohos, Soho Central in Mandaluyong, Makati Soho and the South of Market Soho. Century Properties also cashed in on what it calls the transport oriented development, based on the population's use of the mass railway, which enabled people to have access to jobs without paying the stiff prices of Makati properties.

Another complement to his condo business is themed retail to accompany the residential developments. "Aside from being a support to the residential component, this retail outlet becomes a destination as well."

While his company's condominiums may have offered the upscale lifestyle, Antonio offered something else for what he calls a new emerging middle class, many of them benefiting from OFW earnings. "We are the first developer to deliver fully-fitted, fully-furnished units. Here, we put in all furniture, all appliances, including the flat screen TV. You can walk in and hang your clothes."

Antonio likes to hold forth on his theory of the rising middle class, an economic stratum composed of highly skilled professionals with rising incomes based on overseas earnings and multinational company outsourcing. This is a market on which he has set his sights. The company recently purchased land formerly occupied by the old International School. "We're going to put up a mixed use complex but it will be very IT-oriented, a mini-city in itself, with residential components, retail, office components. It is now in the planning stage."

Next wave

Recently, Antonio's noted bullishness about the Philippines has another outlet, in his work as Special Envoy to China. He set up the Philippine China Business Council, composed of young taipans in the country, whom he calls the next wave of leaders. He is involved in encouraging Chinese investment in the Philippines in fisheries, agriculture and mining.

Jose's four sons were educated in Chinese schools, and pursued further studies at Wharton and Stanford. Antonio says he teaches them the value of cultivating human relationships in their business, whether in the boardroom or during their regular golf games. "I tell them that people are the most important partners you will have. They have to be sensitive to people's aspirations, address their customers, and enhance their business relationships. They should deliver the goods. In fact, you should exceed expectations if you can."

But it's not all business for Antonio. In his spare time, the whole family—wife Hilda and his four sons—enjoy travelling for leisure and education. "We go to places we have not been to before to study the local culture, the people and the architectural heritage of the place. Our most recent trips include Turkey and Dubai."

Perhaps the best lesson Jose Antonio enjoys teaching is his own overriding optimism and enthusiasm for the country's future. And many sales and a lot of happy condo owners later, it seems his shaky start just before the People Power Revoution was the most appropriate beginning for a company that shows so much faith in the Filipino.

First Person

by Karina Araos

His comments hurt, but what did I expect? Society still does not look too kindly on those who violate its perceived moral standards

Mobile, single, with child

ACLOBAN CITY—As a kid, I used to get motion sickness every time I took a ride. It could be a quick 10-minute or an agonizing three-hour ride, but all the same, I'd feel light-headed and queasy the moment the journey was over.

I always thought I would outgrow this. But several years and a baby later, traveling still makes me feel uncomfortable. Only this time it isn't the potholes or road humps or the driving speed that cause my discomfort. It's the comments that people make when they see me with my son.

Unable to afford a nanny, I'd usually take my two-year-old son, Kyamoi, with me on the 15-minute ride to school where I teach. My usual routine is to drop off the boy with his dad on my way to school and fetch him after my classes. Sometimes though, when his dad is too busy to babysit, I take him to my friends and occasionally, even to my classes. But no matter how the day fares for both of us, it always ends with another dreadful 15-minute ride home.

The ride is short enough, but it seems intolerably and uncomfortably long in most instances. There are the same questioning stares and knowing looks from other passengers. No, I'm not a local celebrity nor am I being paranoid. I'm just your average single mom.

Araos: "Just your average single mom"

On better days, other passengers just smile at me and my little boy. But there are times when people can't seem to resist a question or two that start innocently enough, "What's his name?" "How old is he?," then quickly become too intrusive. When complete strangers start giving me unsolicited advice on how to run my life, I automatically drop the conversation and shut them out.

One encounter I find particularly appalling happened one rainy day when I was running late for my classes. With my bag hanging on my shoulder while balancing an umbrella on one hand and my son on the other, I hailed a jeepney. Once inside, I noticed this elderly man looking at me curiously.

Minutes later, he started clucking his tongue in seeming sympathy. I ignored him. Respect your elders, right? Until, unable to contain himself, the man addressed my son directly.

"Hi there little man," he greeted.

"Hello..." my son replied tentatively.

"Where are you going?" he asked.

My son looked at me briefly before answering, "To Papa."

Although their little chit-chat seemed innocent, I felt vaguely uncomfortable. His next words justified my feelings: "You poor guy. Your father left you and your mom, didn't he? And I bet he doesn't even visit you, that's why you're the one who goes to visit him...isn't it?"

My jaw dropped and I felt the blood surge to my face. I wanted to scream at him but couldn't. After all, I'm a young mother without a ring on her finger. What did I expect from people who

To page 7

This Week

Art

Salamisim, an interpretation of Philippine landscapes taken with a Nikon D70 digital camera by Carlos Esguerra at the MuseumSpace, Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue corner Dela Rosa Street, Greenbelt Park, Makati City until Sept. 12.

Disenyong Hinubog sa Kahoy, a solo exhibit of latest wood sculptures using traditional hardwood like molave, narra, and batikuling by Frank Gajo, until Sept. 16 at Galeria de las Islas, 3/F, Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. For details, call 527-2113.

Storage Problems, Alvin Villaruel's exhibit of figurative paintings representing objects and materials signifying industrial decay, until Sept.26 at Mag:net Gallery Katipunan, 335 Agcor Bldg., Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC.

***Upuan*: Philippine Seating Arrangements During the American Colonial Period**, until Sept. 9 at the Tall Galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, BSP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Cinema

Luz: Lines of Vision, a documentary film on National Artist Arturo Luz by The Black Soup, produced by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, will be shown on Sept. 8, 2 p.m. at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, BSP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. For inquiries, call 523-7855 and 536-1566.

Onstage

The MCO Arts Festival presents **Saludo Filipino!**, a ballet concert featuring the works of Filipino choreographers Jojo Lucila, Myra Beltran, Ianne Damian, Stephen Biadoma, Jun Saagundo and Arnie Umayam. Featured artists are the dancers of the Vella C. Damian School of Ballet, Inc. and Dance Concert Company with guest artists from the Chameleon Dance Company and Neo Nescas. To be held on Sept. 3, 4 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue corner H.V. dela Costa Street, Makati City. For tickets, call 878-4359 and 840-7000 loc. 2630.

On Sept. 8, 9, 15, 16 at 7:30 p.m., Koine One Acts will restage Niel de Mesa's Palanca Award-winning play, **Subtext**, about text messaging, communication, Hermenuetics and relationships . For ticket inquiries and reservations, call 410-4485 or 0916-5251038. Koine is located at 2/F Forab Building, 121 Kamuning Road, QC.

Tanghalang Pilipino's **Godot, Wer Is U?** moves to the more intimate Tanghalang Huseng Batute for a four-weekend run from Sept. 8 to Oct. 1 with matinee shows at 3 p.m. (Saturdays and Sundays) and evening shows at 8 p.m. (Fridays and Saturdays). Samuel Beckett's tragicomedy about the senselessness of human existence gets a Filipinized touch, set in a community along the riles complete with street slang and Pinoy humor. For reservations, call 832-3661 or 832-1125 locals 1620/1621. Tickets are also available at Ticketworld outlets (tel. 891-9999).

Music

The University of the Philippines Vocal Ensemble commemorates the 23rd death anniversary of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino and celebrates the many faces that heroism has taken throughout Filipino history with the concert ***Iba't Ibang Mukha ng Bayani***. Musical director is Dr. Raul Navarro. To be held on Sept. 10 at 5 p.m. at the PhilAm Life Auditorium, United Nations Avenue, Manila. Contact 0917-8210109 or visit www.upvocalensemble.com.

Sinag Series 2006-2007 in cooperation with Music Theater Foundation, Philippines present **On Wings of Song**, an evening of neo ethnic, classical, broadway, pop and opera featuring Marvin Gayramon with guest artists Ana Feleo and Lena Mckenzie, Sept. 9 at 8 p.m. at the Sinag Arts Studio, 664 San Ignacio St., Brgy. Plainview, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries and ticket reservations, call 531-3491 and 0918-9441313.

Watch Akafellas, Color It Red, Cynthia Alexander, Imago, Itchyworms, Pido, Sandwich, and other performers in a **concert to mark the 25th anniversary of CEDAW** (The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women). Eve-olution (Celebrating Women) goes onstage Sept. 12, 6:30 PM at the UP Theater, Diliman, QC. Proceeds to benefit women with HIV-AIDS and survivors of violence. For details, contact Alpha Allanigui, (02) 722-8919, 0916-707-1622 or email eveolution2006@gmail.com.

Atbp

Miriam College invites all senior high school girls, parents and school administrators to its **Open House** on Sept. 4-6. Get a glimpse of college student life at Miriam College though talks, dialogues with academic staff, and a tour of the college's facilities and learning resources. Those who are interested to come to the open house, may call Merce Lucero at 435-9236 or 580-5400 ext. 2026.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

Teacher

Mobile

...from page 6

have been conditioned to think that being such was inexcusable and indefensible? I felt a stinging in my eyes. I so wanted to cry but stopped myself. What would my son think? So I just hugged him tighter, while fighting for emotional control.

The other passengers who had heard the man's comments were looking at me, waiting for something to happen. They looked as uneasy as I was. But the old man looked unconcerned, even apathetic to the austerity of his words and their effect.

I wish I had the courage and boldness to confront him and set him straight. I wish I had told him to keep his remarks to himself because my life was none of his business. But I did neither of those things. I was aware of how much worse I'd have looked if I confronted the old man. "Young, unmarried, with child, and utterly rude and insolent," people would have thought. And so I just looked away.

At school I couldn't concentrate. I found my mind wandering to that morning's episode. Did I do the right thing? Did I do it for myself or for my son? Before the incident, I had been sure of myself. It was a choice I made, not something dictated on me by society's rules and conventions. I have my reasons for choosing to be a single mother. All the same, society's sneering judgment unnerved me. I was disillusioned. Despite its cosmopolitan trappings, society remains unforgiving of those who dare violate its perceived moral standards.

I guess it's a choice I would have to learn to live with. I'd just have to comfort myself with the thought that I'm doing what I think is best for myself and my son under the present circumstances.

In the meantime, I have to make myself more comfortable during that short but bumpy jeepney ride. I'll have to learn to sway my body to the vehicle's rhythmic motion as it careens down the road, hoping my life's journey would become smoother as well.

Well, I'd better get going. Time to move on.

Women's Feature Service

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		9				3	1	
2		1						
8			1				5	7
						9		
			8	2	4			
		7						
5	8				3			9
						6		4
	9	3				1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/03

©2006 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Answer to previous puzzle

4	7	3	2	5	1	6	9	8
8	6	1	9	3	7	2	5	4
5	2	9	4	8	6	7	3	1
1	9	4	8	6	3	5	2	7
2	3	7	1	9	5	4	8	6
6	5	8	7	2	4	9	1	3
3	8	6	5	4	2	1	7	9
9	1	2	6	7	8	3	4	5
7	4	5	3	1	9	8	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Philippine Daily Inquirer

TV GUIDE

Sunday, September 3, 2006

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:

1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC5		Ringside TV		PBA				Letty, La Mas Fea		Todo Max		Philippine Idol			Shall We Dance		ABCinema		
ABS-CBN2	Your Song, Ang Soundtrack Ng Love Life Mo	Lovespell		The Buzz				TV Patrol World	Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		Sharon		Pinoy Dream Academy	Sunday's Best			
AXN						EBuzz	Samsung Sports World			Fear Factor (Season VI)				CSI Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		CSI NY (Season 2)		CSI Miami (Season 4)	
Cartoon Network	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi/The Powerpuff Girls	The Road Runner Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Pet Alien/Planet Sketch/Camp Lazlo/Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/Cow & Chicken/Pet Alien/Camp Lazlo		Robotboy	The Simpsons	Courage The Cowardly Dog			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons/Power Rangers Dino Thunder	The Batman/Gundam Seed Destiny	Power Rangers Dino Thunder/The Simpsons	Gundam Seed/The Brak Show	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/The Batman
Cinemax		Michael Collins (3:05 PM)				Trapped (5:15 PM)				Batman (6:55 PM)				Battlestar Galactica Mission 8			Battlestar Galactica Mission 9		
CNN		World News		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News		World News	World Sport	Talk Asia		World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		I, Detective	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Cold Case		Cold Case		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		The Grid		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies New Season Yr 4	Kim Possible	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	American Dragon	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Major League Baseball Saturday						Manchester United Premier Cup 06 - Highlights		Winter X Games Classic	LPGA Golf State Farm Classic 3rd Rd.			Major League Baseball Saturday					
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Insider Weekend	Rated Oh! 5	American Dreams 2		One Tree Hill 3		America's Next Top Model 5		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Project Runway 2		Nip/Tuck 3		Rated Oh!	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blow Out 2		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		Cold Turkey 2		NBC Nightly News	WSJR	Nanny 911		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One
EWTN	Defending Life	Chaplet Of Mercy/Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore		Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live			
GMA7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Pinoy Meets World		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel										Just Cause									
HBO	Entourage 12: An Offer Refused	The Bourne Supremacy			A Simple Wish (4:45 PM)			White Chicks (6:15 PM)				Backdraft				Troy (10:15PM)			
Hero TV	Machine Robo Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler	Zenki	Rockman	Peacemaker	Sorcerer Orphen	Barom One	Babel II	Mars The Terminator G3		Voltes V Evolution	Street Fighter OVA			Ragnarok	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler
IBC13		Ang Bang Hanap Mo?		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		My Final Say On Cha-Cha		Pinoy Action Hits				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV				Comedy Central	Premium Blend	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Distraction	Banzai	American Dad	Family Guy	WWE Smackdown				South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers	Dr. Katz
Lifestyle Network	Embellish This	DIY Crafts	DIY Jewelry Making	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special						Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines					Homecoming	Room Raiders	Boiling Points	Pimp My Ride	Homewrecker	Punk'd									
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Storm Stories	Volcano Volcano (Built For Destruction)		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Amazing Moments	Infinite Possibilities: Angel Falls		Volcano Eruption at Pinatubo		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Amazing Moments	MegaAsia: Building to Extremes		Infinite Possibilities: Creative Asian Beauty		Nat Geo Investigates: Diva Mummy		Nat Geo Investigates: Egypt - King Tut Uncovered	
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan (Sining Gising)						Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Congress In Action		The Working President	Under Construction	The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Special Events From Malacañang And Of Tinig Ng Bayan (Replay)/W/ Career Zone	
Net25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nais Sa Dating Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nais Sa Dating Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	Euromaxx	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Just For Kicks	Catscratch	Avatar, Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	Troliz	SpongeBob SquarePants	Just For Kicks	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	The Brothers Garcia	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka...		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				Groupee TV	
RPN9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Sure Hits	WWE Smackdown		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		Sunday's Big Event					The Working President
SBN21				Buhay Pinoy		Sheperds Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Orasng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports					Aviva Open SG Men's Singles		Aviva Open SG Men's Doubles		NBA Access	Sunday Slugfest: Reyes vs Calderon				2006 FIBA World C'ship Games Finals				World Pool 2006 Masters	
Sports Plus		The International Highlights		Motoring Today		RM Underwater Hockey	Nopi Tunervision	Sharpie 500 Highlights		World Game		World's Greatest Auto Show Geneva		Raceworld		Jeld Wen Tradition Highlights		U.S. Open '06 Day 7 Rd.	
StarMovies		Out Of Time (3:15 PM)				Starsky & Hutch			The Alamo (6:40 PM)					Godsend			The Object Of My Affection		
StarWorld		The Office	Arrested Development	Kevin Hill		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	NCIS		Sons & Daughters	The Office	Oprah Prime Time		Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee		Parkinson		Hollywood Shootouts	Oprah Prime Time
Studio23								Exposed		Gagito!	Y-Speak		US Girls	Desperate Housewives		Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Badminton Extreme		Tru Calling

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Globe Telecom introduces Globe Broadband Webeye

GLOBE TELECOM INTRODUCES A new service that allows an entrepreneur to keep an eye on what's going on in his store, factory or warehouse at anytime of the day via the Internet.

The new Globe Broadband Webeye makes it easy for businesses with retail outlets and multiple sites within the country to regularly check on each location and ensure efficient operations.

Globe Bizworks marketing head Ailene S. Averion said with online video surveillance by Webeye business owners can feel more secure and save on time and cost of travel to and from retail outlets, and still manage operations effectively.

"Globe came up with this online video solution to address the need of retail companies and small and medium enterprises for reliable round-the-clock business surveillance. Globe Broadband Webeye gives an entrepreneur flexibility and peace of mind. Now wherever there is an Internet connection, he can view his factory, warehouse or branches at anytime he chooses to," Averion added.

Globe Broadband Webeye is a remote web-based video solution that allows entrepreneurs to monitor their businesses anywhere in the country through their personal computers or anywhere there is Internet access.

It provides high quality digital images of offices, shops or other business locations in real time. It is available at a cost effective price and easy to set up as it only requires a Globelines Postpaid landline, an IP (Internet Protocol) camera and a router.

"Globe Broadband Webeye works in three simple steps. First, the images are captured and digitized by the IP camera. These images are then sent to the Internet via the Globe Broadband dedicated access. The video images can be viewed from any web browser, anywhere there is Internet access," Averion explained.

For more information on Globe Broadband Webeye, call the hotline (02) 730-1288 or the toll-free number 1-800-8-7301288 or email customercare@innove.com.ph.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK PRESIDENT'S TREAT

Every quarter, BPI Family Savings Bank president, Alfonso Salcedo Jr, hosts a lunch for its top performing brokers. They are brokers who refer successful housing loan bookings to the bank and they are ranked according to the highest loan amount they bring in. Dubbed as the President's Treat, the quarterly lunch is on its third year. The second quarter lunch was recently held at the Good Earth Restaurant at the Fort, Bonifacio Global City It was attended by top brokers Josephine Gaston, Susie Atayde, Melvin Famatigan, Jeric Maglanoc and Jean Red. In addition to the sumptuous lunch, the valued brokers were presented gift items. Shown in photo (seated, from left): Melvin Famatigan, Josephine Gaston, BPI Family Savings Bank president Alfonso Salcedo, Jr., and Jeanne Red; (standing): BPI Family Savings Bank VP Jocelyn Sta. Ana, Susie Atayde, Jeric Maglanoc and BPI Family Savings Bank AVP Ruel Magtoto.

GMA NETWORK SUPPORTS CEO 1000 SUMMIT PROJECT

GMA Network, Inc teams up with Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting in its CEO 1000 Summit Project. The C1000: CEO Summit will be held on Sept. 27-28 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza, Roxas Blvd in Pasay City. Photo shows lawyer Felipe L. Gozon, chair, president and CEO of GMA Network (4th from left) with Tita D. Puangco, CEO of Ancilla (3rd from left). Also in photo are (from left) Carmencita G. Arce, head of corporate affairs, GMA; Lourdes R. Ortiz-Luis, president, Ancilla; Butch S. Raquel, OIC of corporate communications, GMA and Ricardo Bartolome, CEO 1000 Summit Project manager. The MOA signing was held Aug. 14 at GMA Network.

BPI LAUNCHES JUMPSTART

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) recently launched a unique deposit product for teen and preteen children age 10-17. Dubbed as BPI Jumpstart, it teaches children the basics of responsible money management. A raffle draw followed its launching, wherein new accountholders had a chance to win 2 GB Apple IPOD Nano and 20 GB Apple IPOD. Photo shows the winners of the raffle draw (second from left: Mariflor Guinto, Victoria Monfiero, Matthew Lee, Sandra Agno and, Jezlian Balili-ing) receiving their prizes from BPI VP Carmencita Gozar (first from left) and BPI manager Mary Ann Tupaz (first from right).

HELP FOR MAYON VICTIMS

Dr. Lucio C. Tan (third from left), chair of Fortune Tobacco Corp and Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc leads the Hope Caravan relief mission in Guinobatan, Albay. Photo shows Dr. Tan with Albay Congressman Joey Sarte Salceda (right) handing out relief goods to calamity victims displaced by Mt. Mayon's impending eruption. Tan personally observed the cramped living conditions of over 700 families temporarily housed in Guinobatan and Malilipot evacuation centers. A joint project of Fortune Tobacco Corp and Tan Yan Kee Foundation, the Hope Caravan distributed food, drinking water, plastic covered carton mats as well as galvanized drums to be used as water containers in various evacuation centers throughout Albay.

PLDT'S TMBLA RECEIVES HGC AWARD

Tahanan Mutual Building and Loan Association Inc (TMBLA) of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company was recently awarded as the Most Valued Partner in Housing Finance for Long Time Partner in Home Financing under the Building and Loan Association Category by The Home Guaranty Corp (HGC). TMBLA an association of employees of the PLDT Group of companies was created for the primary purpose of accumulating the savings of its members and stockholders and lending funds to them for housing purposes. Natividad A. Lim, president, TMBLA, second from right, holding the trophy, is flanked here by, from left: Gonzalo B.A. Bongolan, CEO and president, HGC; Vice President Noli de Castro, Chair, HUDCC; and Arthur G. Tan, Executive vice president, TMBLA.

THE SUN SHOP OPENS IN SM MALL OF ASIA

In attendance at the opening of The Sun Shop Mall of Asia were (left to right) business center head Mary Jane Arreola, field operations head Anthony Tuason, The Sun Shop SM Mall of Asia team, regional manager Dante Aquino and AVP for retail management Faraday Go.

PR experts converge to discuss New Media Age

IN TODAY'S WIKI-ENABLED Internet Age, any average Pedro can voice out his opinion and pass them off as fact. Real issues, however, need real solutions brought by wisdom borne of experience and years of expertise.

Today's PR practitioner faces dilemmas unique to his times. How does one protect one's image despite the proliferation of blogs and a throng of other alternative publishing avenues? How can one break through from the cacophony of messages and make oneself heard? How can a PR practitioner ensure that his messages are received exactly how he intended them despite his increasingly sophisticated yet inattentive public?

These emerging yet nonetheless relevant questions are a sample of what the 13th National PR Congress wishes to address. Organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) and with the theme of Mindmap: Charting the Course of PR in a New Media Age, the Congress offers a panel of distinguished resource speakers to tackle the most pertinent issues facing the PR industry today.

To discuss Branding and how to make sure that your company could stand out from the rest, the Congress has invited Chito Sobrepeña and Danilo Gozo, APR to share their experiences on the subject.

Chito Sobrepeña spent 22 and a half years of distinguished public service and acquired the highest rank in the Career Executive Service Officers (Ceso) corps. Sobrepeña leads the Metrobank Foundation Inc, one of the country's biggest corporate foundations in terms of operating budget. The Foundation has won 17 awards from prestigious award-giving bodies both local and international.

To complement Sobrepeña in discussing effective Branding is Danilo Gozo, APR. He brings to the Congress 33 years of solid PR practice that started back in the days of Martial Law. Gozo's proficiency in Branding is attested by the prestigious lineup of clients he has handled such as Proctor and Gamble, J&J, Nestlé, Philippines Fuji-Xerox, Sanrio/Gift-Gate, Qantas Airways and Pepsi-Cola.

To talk about Crisis Management in the age of Instantaneous Information, the Congress has invited Cyril Del Callar to share his wealth of knowledge.

Cyril Del Callar's proficiency in Crisis Management stems from expertly leading a controversial sector - the Energy Industry. He started his stint with the Department of Energy as an Assistant Secretary in-charge of Legal, Financial and Management and Administrative Services from 1995 to June 1997. As Undersecretary, Usec. Del Callar was in the forefront of the formulation and implementation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) - the law governing the restructuring of the Philippine power sector.

The 13th National PR Congress would also address issues that have always concerned PR Practitioners. A case in point would be the sometimes-uneasy relationship of the Press and PR practitioners. In this subject, the Congress asked no less than the esteemed Max Soliven to share his views.

Maximo Soliven is currently most identified as the publisher and chairman of the board of directors of the Philippine Star - one of the most influential Philippine dailies today. Soliven has a long and storied career as a journalist. He spent more than 12 years as a foreign correspondent, covering important historical events and countries.

The Congress also invited other highly esteemed resource speakers such as Regina Lopez and Mel Tiangco (Corporate Social Responsibility: PR's Best), Emily Abrera (Measuring and Articulating Success in PR), Cris J. Nelson (Shaping Public Opinion through Alternate Channels), Matthew Lussenhop (Most Challenging Task: Changing the Image of the Government), Cyril Del Callar (Crisis Management: Protecting your Reputation in a World of Instant Information), Chito Sobrepeña and Danilo A. Gozo, APR (Branding: How to Make Sure your Cows Stand Out from the Rest of the Cattle Range), Danilo J. Mojica II (Developing and Executing Integrated Communication) and Chito Macapagal (Developing an Effective Crisis Team: Balancing the Legal and PR Skills).

The 13th National PR Congress would be held on Sept. 28 and 29, at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

UNILAB HOLDS BIOGESIC MEDICAL MISSION

United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), the country's leading pharmaceutical company, recently conducted the Biogesic Alagang Barangay Medical Mission in Bgy. Tomasa, Ususan, Taguig last July 29. Some 4,000 patients, mostly women and children, benefited from the outreach program. This medical mission, organized by Unilab Consumer Health, is an integral part of Unilab's commitment to its corporate social responsibility.

FEED THE HUNGRY DONATES TO GILAS

Feed the Hungry Inc, a US-based organization committed to 'addressing physical hunger and intellectual thirst,' with the support of the Commission of Filipinos Overseas, recently donated to Gilas (Gearing Up Internet Literacy and Access to Students) to provide internet access to students of Pasay City East High School and Cavite's Bulihan National High School. The donation was presented by Feed the Hungry board member Gloria Caoile and Undersecretary Jose Molano, Jr. to Gilas director Luigi Bernas. This brings to 802 the total number of schools enabled by Gilas, a multi-sector project that aims to connect all Philippine public high schools to the Internet by 2010.

Nokia celebrates Make a Connection Program

THE PHILIPPINES IS ONE OF THE most culturally diverse countries in the world, with about 100 tribes that compose 16 percent of the country's total population. Unlike mainstream Filipino culture, these indigenous groups now find themselves relegated to the margins of Philippine society, making them lose their cultural identity.

The Make a Connection: Nurturing Future Leaders project, a joint program of Nokia, Consuelo Foundation, and the International Youth Foundation has, since the year 2000, helped 551 indigenous youth from Misamis Oriental, Sulu, South Cotabato, Cotabato City, Tawi-Tawi, Nueva Viscaya, Basilan, Zamboanga, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao to empower themselves by offering culture-based leadership and life-skills training so that they can help contribute to their respective communities. These indigenous youth, later on, put up their own livelihood projects like bakeries, silkscreen printing, fish farming and crab fattening sites.

Consuelo Foundation with the support of Nokia and the International Youth Foundation recently launched a book entitled "Building Bridges: The development of a Leadership Training Program for Indigenous Youth". The book chronicles the implementation and results of the Make a Connection program in the Philippines. It also contains testimonials from the youth who have been part of the program.

"We sincerely hope, that the program itself with the new book launched today motivates the cross-sectoral society to ensure that even more Filipino young people and their communities can benefit of the program for years to come," says Simo Hoikka, program manager for corporate relations and responsibility, Nokia Philippines.

Nokia believes that the best overall results can be achieved by addressing locally relevant and important issues around the world through youth programs focusing on such key issues as life skills and formal education.

Other programs where Nokia partners with local groups is Text-2-Teach, a joint project with Ayala Foundation and Globe Telecom that offers an educational system using advanced digital communications to reach underserved youth in their communities. The academic content used in Text-2-Teach program follows the international curriculum approved by the Department of Education, and Helping Hands which is an employee volunteering program.

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Globe Bizworks marketing head Ailene S. Averion said with online video surveillance by Webeye business owners can feel more secure and save on time and cost of travel to and from retail outlets, and still manage operations effectively.

"Globe came up with this online video solution to address the need of retail companies and small and medium enterprises for reliable round-the-clock business surveillance. Globe Broadband Webeye gives an entrepreneur flexibility and peace of mind. Now wherever there is an Internet connection, he can view his factory, warehouse or branches at anytime he chooses to," Averion added.

Globe Broadband Webeye is a remote web-based video solution that allows entrepreneurs to monitor their businesses anywhere in the country through their personal computers or anywhere there is Internet access.

It provides high quality digital images of offices, shops or other business locations in real time. It is available at a cost effective price and easy to set up as it only requires a Globelines Postpaid landline, an IP (Internet Protocol) camera and a router.

"Globe Broadband Webeye works in three simple steps. First, the images are captured and digitized by the IP camera. These images are then sent to the Internet via the Globe Broadband dedicated access. The video images can be viewed from any web browser, anywhere there is Internet access," Averion explained.

For more information on Globe Broadband Webeye, call the hotline (02) 730-1288 or the toll-free number 1-800-8-7301288 or email customercare@innove.com.ph.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK PRESIDENT'S TREAT

Every quarter, BPI Family Savings Bank president, Alfonso Salcedo Jr, hosts a lunch for its top performing brokers. They are brokers who refer successful housing loan bookings to the bank and they are ranked according to the highest loan amount they bring in. Dubbed as the President's Treat, the quarterly lunch is on its third year. The second quarter lunch was recently held at the Good Earth Restaurant at the Fort, Bonifacio Global City It was attended by top brokers Josephine Gaston, Susie Atayde, Melvin Famatigan, Jeric Maglanoc and Jean Red. In addition to the sumptuous lunch, the valued brokers were presented gift items. Shown in photo (seated, from left): Melvin Famatigan, Josephine Gaston, BPI Family Savings Bank president Alfonso Salcedo, Jr., and Jeanne Red; (standing): BPI Family Savings Bank VP Jocelyn Sta. Ana, Susie Atayde, Jeric Maglanoc and BPI Family Savings Bank AVP Ruel Magtoto.

GMA NETWORK SUPPORTS CEO 1000 SUMMIT PROJECT

GMA Network, Inc teams up with Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting in its CEO 1000 Summit Project. The C1000: CEO Summit will be held on Sept. 27-28 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza, Roxas Blvd in Pasay City. Photo shows lawyer Felipe L. Gozon, chair, president and CEO of GMA Network (4th from left) with Tita D. Puangco, CEO of Ancilla (3rd from left). Also in photo are (from left) Carmencita G. Arce, head of corporate affairs, GMA; Lourdes R. Ortiz-Luis, president, Ancilla; Butch S. Raquel, OIC of corporate communications, GMA and Ricardo Bartolome, CEO 1000 Summit Project manager. The MOA signing was held Aug. 14 at GMA Network.

BPI LAUNCHES JUMPSTART

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) recently launched a unique deposit product for teen and preteen children age 10-17. Dubbed as BPI Jumpstart, it teaches children the basics of responsible money management. A raffle draw followed its launching, wherein new accountholders had a chance to win 2 GB Apple IPOD Nano and 20 GB Apple IPOD. Photo shows the winners of the raffle draw (second from left: Mariflor Guinto, Victoria Monfiero, Matthew Lee, Sandra Agno and, Jezlian Balili-ing) receiving their prizes from BPI VP Carmencita Gozar (first from left) and BPI manager Mary Ann Tupaz (first from right).

HELP FOR MAYON VICTIMS

Dr. Lucio C. Tan (third from left), chair of Fortune Tobacco Corp and Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc leads the Hope Caravan relief mission in Guinobatan, Albay. Photo shows Dr. Tan with Albay Congressman Joey Sarte Salceda (right) handing out relief goods to calamity victims displaced by Mt. Mayon's impending eruption. Tan personally observed the cramped living conditions of over 700 families temporarily housed in Guinobatan and Malilipot evacuation centers. A joint project of Fortune Tobacco Corp and Tan Yan Kee Foundation, the Hope Caravan distributed food, drinking water, plastic covered carton mats as well as galvanized drums to be used as water containers in various evacuation centers throughout Albay.

PLDT'S TMBLA RECEIVES HGC AWARD

Tahanan Mutual Building and Loan Association Inc (TMBLA) of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company was recently awarded as the Most Valued Partner in Housing Finance for Long Time Partner in Home Financing under the Building and Loan Association Category by The Home Guaranty Corp (HGC). TMBLA an association of employees of the PLDT Group of companies was created for the primary purpose of accumulating the savings of its members and stockholders and lending funds to them for housing purposes. Natividad A. Lim, president, TMBLA, second from right, holding the trophy, is flanked here by, from left: Gonzalo B.A. Bongolan, CEO and president, HGC; Vice President Noli de Castro, Chair, HUDCC; and Arthur G. Tan, Executive vice president, TMBLA.

THE SUN SHOP OPENS IN SM MALL OF ASIA

In attendance at the opening of The Sun Shop Mall of Asia were (left to right) business center head Mary Jane Arreola, field operations head Anthony Tuason, The Sun Shop SM Mall of Asia team, regional manager Dante Aquino and AVP for retail management Faraday Go

PR experts converge to discuss New Media Age

IN TODAY'S WIKI-ENABLED Internet Age, any average Pedro can voice out his opinion and pass them off as fact. Real issues, however, need real solutions brought by wisdom borne of experience and years of expertise.

Today's PR practitioner faces dilemmas unique to his times. How does one protect one's image despite the proliferation of blogs and a throng of other alternative publishing avenues? How can one break through from the cacophony of messages and make oneself heard? How can a PR practitioner ensure that his messages are received exactly how he intended them despite his increasingly sophisticated yet inattentive public?

These emerging yet nonetheless relevant questions are a sample of what the 13th National PR Congress wishes to address. Organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) and with the theme of Mindmap: Charting the Course of PR in a New Media Age, the Congress offers a panel of distinguished resource speakers to tackle the most pertinent issues facing the PR industry today.

To discuss Branding and how to make sure that your company could stand out from the rest, the Congress has invited Chito Sobrepeña and Danilo Gozo, APR to share their experiences on the subject.

Chito Sobrepeña spent 22 and a half years of distinguished public service and acquired the highest rank in the Career Executive Service Officers (Ceso) corps. Sobrepeña leads the Metrobank Foundation Inc, one of the country's biggest corporate foundations in terms of operating budget. The Foundation has won 17 awards from prestigious award-giving bodies both local and international.

To complement Sobrepeña in discussing effective Branding is Danilo Gozo, APR. He brings to the Congress 33 years of solid PR practice that started back in the days of Martial Law. Gozo's proficiency in Branding is attested by the prestigious lineup of clients he has handled such as Proctor and Gamble, J&J, Nestlé, Philippines Fuji-Xerox, Sanrio/Gift-Gate, Qantas Airways and Pepsi-Cola.

To talk about Crisis Management in the age of Instantaneous Information, the Congress has invited Cyril Del Callar to share his wealth of knowledge.

Cyril Del Callar's proficiency in Crisis Management stems from expertly leading a controversial sector - the Energy Industry. He started his stint with the Department of Energy as an Assistant Secretary in-charge of Legal, Financial and Management and Administrative Services from 1995 to June 1997. As Undersecretary, Usec. Del Callar was in the forefront of the formulation and implementation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) - the law governing the restructuring of the Philippine power sector.

The 13th National PR Congress would also address issues that have always concerned PR Practitioners. A case in point would be the sometimes-uneasy relationship of the Press and PR practitioners. In this subject, the Congress asked no less than the esteemed Max Soliven to share his views.

Maximo Soliven is currently most identified as the publisher and chairman of the board of directors of the Philippine Star - one of the most influential Philippine dailies today. Soliven has a long and storied career as a journalist. He spent more than 12 years as a foreign correspondent, covering important historical events and countries.

The Congress also invited other highly esteemed resource speakers such as Regina Lopez and Mel Tiangco (Corporate Social Responsibility: PR's Best), Emily Abrera (Measuring and Articulating Success in PR), Cris J. Nelson (Shaping Public Opinion through Alternate Channels), Matthew Lussenhop (Most Challenging Task: Changing the Image of the Government), Cyril Del Callar (Crisis Management: Protecting your Reputation in a World of Instant Information), Chito Sobrepeña and Danilo A. Gozo, APR (Branding: How to Make Sure your Cows Stand Out from the Rest of the Cattle Range), Danilo J. Mojica II (Developing and Executing Integrated Communication) and Chito Macapagal (Developing an Effective Crisis Team: Balancing the Legal and PR Skills).

The 13th National PR Congress would be held on Sept. 28 and 29, at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

UNILAB HOLDS BIOGESIC MEDICAL MISSION

United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), the country's leading pharmaceutical company, recently conducted the Biogesic Alagang Barangay Medical Mission in Bgy. Tomasa, Ususan, Taguig last July 29. Some 4,000 patients, mostly women and children, benefited from the outreach program. This medical mission, organized by Unilab Consumer Health, is an integral part of Unilab's commitment to its corporate social responsibility.

FEED THE HUNGRY DONATES TO GILAS

Feed the Hungry Inc, a US-based organization committed to 'addressing physical hunger and intellectual thirst,' with the support of the Commission of Filipinos Overseas, recently donated to Gilas (Gearing Up Internet Literacy and Access to Students) to provide Internet access to students of Pasay City East High School and Cavite's Bulihan National High School. The donation was presented by Feed the Hungry board member Gloria Caoile and Undersecretary Jose Molano, Jr. to Gilas director Luigi Bernas. This brings to 802 the total number of schools enabled by Gilas, a multi-sector project that aims to connect all Philippine public high schools to the Internet by 2010.

Nokia celebrates Make a Connection Program

THE PHILIPPINES IS ONE OF THE most culturally diverse countries in the world, with about 100 tribes that compose 16 percent of the country's total population. Unlike mainstream Filipino culture, these indigenous groups now find themselves relegated to the margins of Philippine society, making them lose their cultural identity.

The Make a Connection: Nurturing Future Leaders project, a joint program of Nokia, Consuelo Foundation, and the International Youth Foundation has, since the year 2000, helped 551 indigenous youth from Misamis Oriental, Sulu, South Cotabato, Cotabato City, Tawi-Tawi, Nueva Viscaya, Basilan, Zamboanga, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao to empower themselves by offering culture-based leadership and life-skills training so that they can help contribute to their respective communities. These indigenous youth, later on, put up their own livelihood projects like bakeries, silkscreen printing, fish farming and crab fattening sites.

Consuelo Foundation with the support of Nokia and the International Youth Foundation recently launched a book entitled "Building Bridges: The development of a Leadership Training Program for Indigenous Youth". The book chronicles the implementation and results of the Make a Connection program in the Philippines. It also contains testimonials from the youth who have been part of the program.

"We sincerely hope, that the program itself with the new book launched today motivates the cross-sectoral society to ensure that even more Filipino young people and their communities can benefit of the program for years to come," says Simo Hoikka, program manager for corporate relations and responsibility, Nokia Philippines.

Nokia believes that the best overall results can be achieved by addressing locally relevant and important issues around the world through youth programs focusing on such key issues as life skills and formal education.

Other programs where Nokia partners with local groups is Text-2-Teach, a joint project with Ayala Foundation and Globe Telecom that offers an educational system using advanced digital communications to reach underserved youth in their communities. The academic content used in Text-2-Teach program follows the international curriculum approved by the Department of Education, and Helping Hands which is an employee volunteering program.